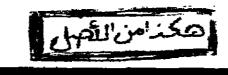
18

1



# THENDEPENDENT

IN THIS SECTION

Howard's way

with England

SPORT, PAGE 28

A father's

nightmare ROBERT FISK, REVIEW FRONT

(and it's not Kinky) FILM, PAGE 10

It's Hideous

IN THE THURSDAY REVIEW





### **Greetings from** Lewisham: wish we weren't here

AS THE "Virginia 12" returned to Britain yesterday to face police questions about a mass outbreak of "air rage", a leading aviation psychologist placed part of the blame for the rise in such incidents on bossy cabin crews and exaggerated claims

The Irish holidaymakers who were thrown off a Jamaicabound flight at Norfolk airport, Virginia, after an alleged drunken brawl landed at Gatwick airport at 9.35 yesterday morning.

After being questioned by immigration officers and police the dishevelled bunch were driven by coach to their caravan site at Lewisham, south-east London. The three O'Driscoll sisters, Priscilla, Elizabeth and Katrina, were reunited with their children. Outside the gates of their yard they pleaded their innocence. "We've been through an ordeal. Four days of rough justice," said Priscilla. "We are the victims here," said Katrina. "There's no sign on a plane to say you can't drink."

The impromptu press conference was broken up when their mother charged at phoBY CLARE GARNER AND JASON BENNETTO

Meanwhile, Robert Bor, Professor of Psychology at City University in London, will argue in a new report that many air rage incidents occur because of what he terms "role confusion" by the flight attendants and check in staff who consider cosseting passengers a low prioritv. "Cabin-crew interactions with passengers appear to be the single greatest trigger of disruptive behaviour and it is possible that crew mismanagement of tense situations may make the

incident worse," he argues. Professor Bor's paper, "Unin-flight violence: a psychological perspective", will be published in the Travel Medicine International journal this month. He says: "There should be less emphasis in airline adverts invoking images of glamour, comfort and pampering. This disappoints and frustrates passengers whose expectations

Leading article, Review, page 3 John Walsh, Review, page 4

# All teachers must take maths test

ALL NEW teachers will have to pass a national test in numeracy from next year. From 2001, they will also be required to pass tests in literacy and in-

formation technology. David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, yesterday asked his exam advisers to draw up the numeracy tests, which will include mental arithmetic.

Students already need to have GCSE maths and English to at least grade C before they are accepted for training. But ministers believe that too many new teachers are leaving training courses with an inadequate grasp of figures, spelling and grammar and unable to use a computer effectively.

By Judith Judd

Their proposals are part of a scheme to tighten teacher training outlined in the Green Paper on the profession's future published before Christmas.

Primary and secondary school trainee teachers will have to pass the tests, which will be set and marked nationally before they can start teaching. The tests might be taken before, during or after training. Tests in numeracy will be piloted this summer.

John Howson, an education consultant and visiting fellow at Oxford Brookes University. said: "There are concerns about the standard of people

coming into teacher-training courses and whether GCSE standards are adequate. Older entrants may have taken GCSE some years earlier."

But he questioned the effect the new tests would have on recruitment at a time when applicants for courses are falling sharely. "I would hope that the Department for Education has researched the effect of this on recruitment."

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), which is to help devise the tests, surveyed teachers two years ago to discover bow confident they were about teaching grammar and spelling. Teachers complained that they were being asked to take "grammar tests"



and the National Association for the Teaching of English advised

them not to take part. The survey asked teachers whether they felt certain that they could distinguish simple, compound and co-ordinated sentences and explain the ori-

gin of words such as "chortle" and "dosh". Most teachers confessed that they could not. A spokesman for the Cur-

riculum Authority said: "Decisions about the content of the tests will need to be related to the national curriculum for teacher training and the national curriculum to ensure that teachers are in command of the areas and topics which they teach."

Professor David Reynolds, of Newcastle University, who led the Government's numeracy task force on how maths should be taught in primaries, said it was important for teachers to be in command of the basic skills they taught, particularly in view of the task force's proposed changes to

"I think that in the long term, the solution to problems in these areas will lie in ensuring there is a baccalaureate system so that teachers don't give up in these areas between the ages of 16 and 18, as they

often do in this country." London University's Institute of Education introduced tests for its trainee teachers in English, maths, science and information technology last year. Barbara McGilchrist, the institute's dean of initial teacher training, accepted that the new national tests "raised the stakes" for new teachers.

"I am very supportive of the idea. Our tests mean that new teachers have to be up to A-level standard in English and maths

even if they are going to teach

in primary schools." She said the institute's tests had shown that some students were 100 per cent competent in the core subjects while others

needed remedial tuition. One academic, who did not wish to be named, questioned whether the tests were necessary for people teaching music. art and English in secondary schools. "There will always be people teaching English literature at A-level for whom a

numeracy test is irrelevant."

PHONE?

WHO WOULD pay

twice as much

TO CALL A MOBILE

in his letter to the Teacher Training Agency, the quango in charge of training and recruitment: "I am determined to take action as soon as possible to further strengthen standards and extend flexibility following the introduction of a basic curriculum and the strength-

Mr Blunkett said vesterday

ening of in-service training. He said that one of the agency's first tasks would be to develop numeracy tests with the QCA.

**Education section** 

# Tory advisers try to

sick African asbestos workers.

Thousands of workers were affected by asbestosis, scarring of the lungs by fibres, or mesothelioma, a fatal lung cancer.

Sir Edward Heath's private of-

Uister inquiry

Home P4

Amnesty International is

The ninth planet may be

just an "object" after all

to investigate Ulster's

punishment beatings

Row over Pluto

head of communications during John Major's premiership, to undermine the claims.

Mr Weeks is chairman of the lobbyists GJW Government Relations, while Mr Lewington runs the public relations advisers Media Strategy. They plan to put pressure on Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, to stymie South African applications for legal aid by persuading a right-wing newspaper to encourage public outrage over the cost to the taxpayer of 1,900 claims made against Cape in the past week. In fact, if the claimants win their case, the costs are likely to be paid not by

the taxpayer, but by Cape. Mr Lewington is understood to have advised the company: "The wider political implications of the granting of legal aid to even a handful of non-British claimants will be immediately

[Daily] Mail. The political ironies are so delicious for a paper like the Moil (a Labour lord chancellor having to choose between black workers and multinationals) that the detail of the claims are likely to be of secondary interest."

According to Leigh, Day & Co, the solicitors representing the workers, the Daily Mail has contacted one of its partners several times this week.

If successful, the litigation against Cape, relating to a former subsidiary, the Cape Asbestos Company Ltd, could cost between £40m and £100m in damages. The company pulled out of South Africa in 1979 but last year the House of Lords gave permission for five former workers to sue Cape in the UK.

Cape had asbestos mining and milling interests in southern Africa and records show it operated lower safety standards than those in Britain.

### **Budget will give tax** breaks to small firms

GORDON BROWN will unveil a BY ANDREW GRICE Budget for Enterprise" next month, including new tax breaks for small firms and for workers who retain shares in their own company.

The Chancellor's pre-Budget thinking is revealed in a report. leaked to The Independent, by the Labour Party's economic policy commission, which he cochairs. But Mr Brown's commitment to the "enterprise culture" championed by Baroness Thatcher will worry some Labour MPs.

Yesterday, left-wingers attacked Stephen Byers, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, for saying that wealth creation was more important than wealth redistribution. Outlining the Government's plans, Mr Byers said: "We will extend employee share ownership through targeted tax reform to reward long-term commitment AND DIANE COYLE

stakeholders in their company." At present, one million workers are given shares and a similar number granted share options. But only 7 per cent of the workforce has a stake in their company, and Mr Brown wants to double the number of firms running share schemes. The Chancellor believes wider share ownership will boost the "enterprise culture", and Britain's productivity.

He is worried that many workers sell their shares, and in his 9 March Budget he is expected to announce higher tax relief for employees who hold them for a long period perhaps more than three years.

Mr Brown is considering whether to raise the amount of share options that can be granted to senior managers by employees. We will make it tax-free as incentives to Target of spin, page 2 | easier for employees to become improve company perfor-

Take a break

Fast track P12

from work

You could be taking a

six-month sabbatical

mance. The current £30,000 limit is thought to be much too low by entrepreneurs, espe-

cially in hi-tech industries. The Labour report suggests that a temporary increase in tax allowances for investment by companies, originally intended to last for only the current tax

year, will be made permanent. During Prime Minister's Questions, John McAllion, MP for Dundee East, demanded an assurance, in the wake of Mr Byers' comments, that Tony Blair would "tackle through socialist policies of redistribution the massive inequalities in health, access to decent housing and in wealth which continue to disfigure and to scar our country".

The Prime Minister replied: "This Labour Government believes there is no inconsistency between policies that promote business and enterprise and the pursuit of a more just society.

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# sabotage court case ADVISERS TO two former Tory BY STEVE BOGGAN

prime ministers are orchestrating a campaign aimed at blocking thousands of compensation claims brought against a British company by

Charles Lewington and Wilf Weeks are advising Cape plc, which is fighting the claims, to whip up public anger over foreigners claiming legal aid to fight for their rights. The company has already settled the claims of hundreds of British workers, but is fighting those of South Africans - many of whom were only 12 and worked under taskmasters with whips.

The Independent has learnt that Cape, which employs 5,000 people worldwide, has engaged Mr Weeks, the former head of fice, and Charles Lewington, a apparent to a paper like the

INSIDE THIS SECTION Ward case trial opens After 11 years, the trial of the alleged killers of Julie Ward begins today

> Executive shot dead Daewoo's South Africa chief is shot and killed Foreign P14

Foreign P12

Pressure over ERM Brussels increased pressure on Britain to rejoin the ERM **Business P16** 

England recall Cole Glenn Hoddle's last act was to recall Andy Cole Sport P28

David Aaronovitch So the disabled were duly offended by Hoddle. Well, someone had to be Comment P3

INSIDE THE REVIEW

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown France puts female circumcision on trial

leenage drama Contraception for teenagers seems a very alarming idea Features P8

Morocco's first star returns to the desert

Taghmaoui of 'La Haine'

Lords and a Lady A female judge heading for the House of Lords?

TODAY'S TELEVISION



### IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

Everyone claps and waves furiously. God, whether he exists or not, is a master at audience participation

MARK STEEL HAS AN EVANGELICAL EXPERIENCE

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OF TEDEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD FACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, WARK STEEF, ROBERT HSK, DEBORAH ORR, TERENCE BLACKER JOHN WALSEL RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, SUSANNAH FRANKEL THOMAS SUTCLIFE, MILES KINGTON, SUT ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMETE

# Anger at Blair U-turn over modified food

into the controversy over ge- AND MICHAEL MCCARTHY netically modified crops yesterday when he rejected calls for a moratorium on their com- Conservatives failed to ac-

Government's policy on GM of mad-cow disease. Releases products would be to proceed on the basis of the best scientific evidence rather than "prejudice". versible, and any damage they However, both the Tory party and green campaigners said Mr Blair was out of step with public opinion on the issue and equivalent of the BSE crisis.

William Hague, the Tory leader, also attacked the Government for a plan to persuade idence to justify a halt on further supermarkets to provide information from their customer

Greenpeace led the critivironment. "It is ironic that GM products. New Labour on GM crops is starting to look like the Tories ports that supermarket loyalty on BSE," said Douglas Part, cards would be used to monicampaign centre director for tor their purchases and com-Greenpeace. "The Government is failing to acknowledge the Mr Hague asked: "Why

ily vesterday to a government

when dealing with big stores.

Agriculture, said at the Na-

tional Farmers' Union (NFU)

annual conference at the Hilton

Hotel in London that a situation

where farmers and growers

Nick Brown, the Minister of

netic modification, just like the knowledge the uncertainties Tony Blair declared that the around the potential problems of genetically modified crops to the environment are irremight do is irreversible too."

Tony Juniper, policy director of Friends of the Earth, added: "The Government has promised risked turning it into Labour's it will invoke the precautionary principle when it comes to genetically modified crops. There

Mr Blair was caught offloyalty cards on purchases of guard on the issue when it was raised at Prime Minister's Question Time. Mr Hague said cism, backing up concerns ex-pressed by English Nature that GM crops could harm the en-

People were fearful about repare them with cancer cases.

Move for farmers' fair deal

industry group would consider costs was "not sustainable". Allan Leighton, warned: "We

guarantee farmers a fair return made up of food experts, su- The code that exists within

tributors, was a means of

affecting "the food chain". The

group will include a senior

member of the Ministry of Agri-

were selling their produce at Drink Federation, the Britain to rig the price in a free market."

permarkets, farmers and dis- businesses is one of common

matters, by delaying for at least three years the commercial release of these crops until more research is done?" Mr Blair said a moratorium would increase rather than de-

Nature, which is by law the Gov-

ernment's advisers on these

crease public concern over the crops. "We are doing research on this and of course there is a government committee looking

Nick Brown, the Minister of Agriculture, will announce today that the ban on beef on the bone is to stay for another six months to avoid all risk of CJD. the human form of BSE, being contracted from eating the meat. Mr Brown was keen to lift the ban - imposed by his predecessor, Jack Cunningham, in December 1997 - and he raised hopes before Christmas that it could be removed quickly.

Today's decision will be greeted with dismay by the beef industry but Mr Brown's hand has been forced by a warning from the Chief Medical Officer that a small risk remains of maternal transmission of

Retail Consortium and the In-

stitute of Grocery Distribution.

sense, and if that was changed

but added: "We would have to

But Asda's chief executive,



Elsie de Kok, 76, worked in the asbestos mines of the Northern Cape. There is no cure for her mesothelioma-ridden lungs Gorth Stead

# Spin gurus try to thwart black asbestos victims' legal claims

"THE ADMINISTRATION used By STEVE BOGGAN young boys within the collecting bags to trample down and There was a burly fellow pabacks of any boys who slowed

This is not an account of slavthe labours of asbestos workers

His testimony is to be used by lawyers as part of claims by tackling tensions and problems it would sound failure for us all." 2,000 South African ashestos A spokesman for the Tesco workers and their families against Cape plc, the British the right-wing press, pointing company that owned the mine at the potential cost of grantichain welcomed the new group, culture, the NFU, the Food and be very careful with any attempt that employed them. Because ng legal aid to so many for- and children were exposed to rather than promoting the cept terrible illness."

cently as 1965.

of a test case in the House of compact the asbestos fluff. Lords last year the way was opened for them to sue, and aitrolling the bags to lash at the most 1,900 did so this week.

But they have come up gainst the forces of spin. Cape, which owned the Cape Asbestos ery in the 18th century, but the Company Ltd until 1979, has recollections of Gerrit Schepers, employed Charles Lewington, a South African government John Major's former media health inspector, who witnessed guru, and Wilf Weeks, who ran workers and white workers tor for the blacks." Sir Edward Heath's private office, to deflect attention from the

company's responsibilities. The men and their companies, Media Strategy Ltd and

LIGHTING UP

eigners and describing their all the dust that could be genlawyers, Leigh, Day & Co. as erated in drilling, blasting, "ambulance-chasers".

But they will not be able to erase Dr Scheners's memories of mining at Penge, in the northern Transvaal. He saw men, women and children fighting for breath and dying from lung cancers caused by asbestos fibres.

received equal bealth protecwrote to Leigh, Day & Co.

claves in the mill. "The black men, women eigners get legal aid story" leaving them with nothing ex-

YESTERDAY

EXTREMES

Coldest (day): Eskdal

Wettest: Lenwick 0.53 ins st: Heme Bay 1.8 hrs

mucking, cobbing and crushing asbestos ore.

White workers had proper health care. "At the mine and mill, the white workers lived in proper houses ... The blacks were crowded in shanty-town hovels, paid low and subsisted mainly on sour milk and maize "On ... whether black porridge... There was no doc-

It is against this background that Cape is mounting a pubsuggest such a thing," he licity blitz aimed at pressing the Lord Chancellor, Lord "The white workers spent 95 Irvine of Lairg, to block legalper cent of their day time in of- aid applications from the South have tried to plant stories in fices or dust-controlled en- Africans. "The intention is to taxes because ... they were exportray the issue as a for-

poor victims of heartless multi-national story" Mr Lewington is understood to have advised Cape. "A friendly journalist at the Daily Mail should be alerted ... [The journalist] would be provided with an tour) estimate of cost to the taxpayers were all ... plaintiffs to be fully funded."

In 1997, the latest records available, Cape reported profits of £12.3m on a turnover of £243m from manufacturing and sup-

Richard Meeran, the Leigh. Day partner representing the should be paid from British ploited by British companies ...

### **Green Flag Motoring Assistance** to be the state of **DRIVE A GREAT DEAL SAFER** THIS WINTER. FREE MOTORING PACKAGE **SAVING YOU OVER £150.** http://www.greenflag.co.uk WE LEAVE EVERYONE STANDING BUT YOU.

SUPERMARKETS reacted war- By LINUS GREGORIADIS

announcement that a new food prices that did not cover their

a code of conduct for retailers to Mr Brown said the forum.

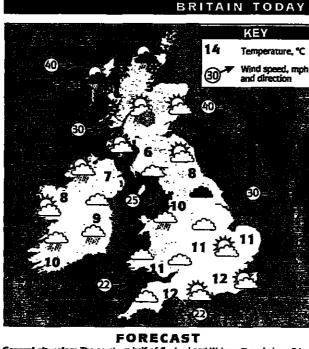
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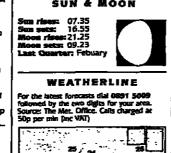
diands, Cent N, NW & NE England, Lake Dist, Isle of Max, Wales: Mild breezy with a lot of cloud and occasional drizzle. Becoming brighter but der from the north this afternoon. A fresh to strong westerly wind. Max temp

OUTLOOK

London; A12 Green Man Roundabout, Leytonstone, Major roadsonis on new M11 link road. Until 31st December. Cembridgeshine A10 between Foxon and M11. Resurfacing and bridge maintentance work at Shepreh Mill. Until 14th February. Bristol: M5 J18-18. Mejor Roadworks on Avormouth Bridge, Until 22nd June 2001. Lancashine: M5 Between J27 Standish and J28 Leytend. Roadworks; contration and a 50mph speed lint either side of Chemock Schard Sarvices. Until 15th February. Greater Manchester: A57, Narrow lanes Manchester-bound. due to Metrolink con-

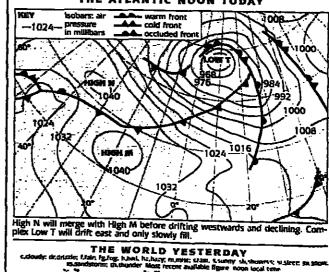
South Vorkshire: M1 Between J34 T Vladuct (A6108) & J34 Tinsley VI (A6178). Sheffield. Cerniapeway raducs lanes southbound, Unit 21st November;

5.08pm 4.58pm 5.05pm 4.56pm 4.55pm 4.57pm 4.49pm HIGH TIDES AIR QUALITY
Today's readings SUN & MOON











the landslide near the town of Riva del Garda at the most northerly point of the picturesque lake and managed to recover the body of one victim, a spokesman said.

RAIN

HEAVY RAIN near a town on Lake Garda, Italy, caused a

landslide that killed one man and buried a number of cars in

Local emergency services

assisted by rescuers from

Varese and Venice reached

mud yesterday.

OR SHINE.

error

Doctors'

historic

triumph

over the

Web of

THE OPERATORS of an Internet By ANDREW GUMBEL

in Los Angeles

whom it refers to as "baby

butchers", it also invites sup-

porters to send information

about their addresses, tele-

phone numbers, family status

including names and ages of

children, car licence-plate num-

than 200 abortion doctors, Gloria Feldt, the president of Advocates for Life Ministries.

In the UK, the first Net libel

case was in 1994, when Phillip

Hallam-Baker, a researcher at

Cern (Conseil Européen pour

la Recherche Nucléaire), on the

Franco-Swiss border, was sued

by Laurence Godfrey, a physi-cist based in London. At issue

the Net. He settled out of court.

a case now. It is increasingly

easy to cover one's tracks in

cyberspace. And, as soon as a

message is posted or a web

page created, it will be copied

Few would try to bring such

Technology Editor

terror

website that posts Wild West-

style "wanted" posters of abor-

tion doctors and puts a black line

through the names of those

killed by anti-abortion activists

have been ordered to pay a

record \$107m (£65.3m) in puni-

tive damages after a United

States federal court ruled that

they posed a deadly threat to the

safety of medical professionals.

fomenting "domestic terror-

on the website testified that

they and their families were in

The website, called the

constant fear for their lives.

believes abortion doctors

should be tried for crimes

against humanity, is full of in-

temperate language about

"slaughter... that would have

caused the Nazis to blanch" and

tuses "bagged like groceries

destined for Satan's table".

Net is recurrent but, as MPs

beard this week, it militates

against the very nature of the

network. Regulation would also

crash into the First Amend-

ment to the US Constitution,

still the principal driving force

behind the Internet's growth.

speech, except for obscenity,

which means that not liking

somebody's views is insuffi-

cient reason to prevent their

showing them off. But yester-

day's judgment on the anti-

abortion website reinforces the

point that, while speech may

be free on the Net, the conse-

quences can be expensive.

It guarantees freedom of

The ruling, which raises im-

**YISUALIZE** 



# art black l claims

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Same at the contract of

ALMIN'TY : ...

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AC PERSON

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educación de la constitución de

**Commons clash over Hoddle** 

THE IDEA of regulating the By CHARLES ARTHUR

THE ROW over the sacking of BY JOHN DAVISON Glenn Hoddle as England football coach resurfaced in the House of Commons yesterday, when Tony Blair was accused of "poking his nose in".

During Prime Minister's Question Time, William Hague, the Opposition leader, asked Mr Blair who the next England coach should be. Mr Blair retorted that he could scarcely believe that the Tory leader was raising the point. "I am content to leave that, I think, to the FA," said Mr Blair.

Mr Hague went on to quesinvolved in the controversy, is beyond that limit!"

when on Monday he criticised Hoddle's reported comments about reincarnation and the disabled. "We all thought Glenn Hoddle's comments were outrageous and we all join in saying so," said Mr Hague. "But given what you just said, will you accept for future reference, and on reflection, that there is a limit to the number of things politicians should

poke their noses into?" Amid uproar, he went on: "Lecturing football association why Mr Blair had become tions on who they should sack

Mr Blair replied: "I really cannot believe that you are raising this. You've already, by making the comment yourself, commented on the issue. I suggest you look at what I said."

Mr Blair said of Hoddle on Monday: "If he said what he is reported to have said, in the way he is reported to have said it, then I think that was very wrong." But he also said: "Let us hear his explanation first."

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said later that Mr Blair would have regrets if anything he had said had contributed to the FA's decision, but that he stood by his opinions.

Meanwhile Howard Wilkinson, England's caretaker manager, made his first appearance since his appointment, saying he was "very shocked" to find himself in the job. "My head's spinning. The last 24 hours have been very hectic and over the next seven days I can't see

the pace dropping," he said. Like the Prime Minister, however, he was careful to steer away from any subject which he thought was not strictly relevant to his immediate task - which in Wilkinson's case, is beating France

next Wednesday Ferguson in line, page 28



Clockwise from top left: The anti-abortionists' website: Dr Elizabeth Newall (right), one of the plaintiffs in the Portland case, and her attorney; celebrities Whoopi Goldberg and Mary Tyler Moore, listed on the website as abortion supporters; and Catherine Ramey, a defendant

Planned Parenthood Federation of America, said after the verdict was announced on Tuesday. "Whether these threats are posted on trees or on the Internet, their intent is the same: to threaten the lives of doctors who courageously serve women seeking to exercise their right to choose abortion "

bers, and so on. It offers rewards of up to \$5,000 for information. Seven doctors have been killed by anti-abortion activists. New York, who was shot by a limits of free speech on the In- in recent years. There have been sniper in the kitchen of his ternet, came at the end of a 39 bombings of abortion clinics, home last October Like other stormy three-week trial in Port- 99 acid attacks and 16 attemptvictims of anti-abortionists, his land, Oregon, in which the anti- ed murders, according to the Naname was crossed out on the abortionists were accused of tional Abortion Federation. Nuremberg Files website.

In the trial, one doctor from Far from condemning the ism". Several doctors featured St Louis testified how gunshots Slepian killing, the website iswere fired into his children's sued this provocative stateplayroom after his name apment: "Those who slaughter peared on the website. Another, God's children without afford-James Newhall of Portland, deing them due process of law Nuremberg Files because it scribed how he had taught his need to understand they are six-year-old son to hide in the going to be held accountable."

bath if he ever heard gunfire in Planned Parenthood mounted the suit with a group of docthe house. The prosecution tors and took aim at a broad team described how doctors had to vary their route to work swath of adversaries - not only each day and change cars and 12 people they believe were regraphic pictures of aborted foe- phone numbers regularly. sponsible for the Internet mes-"The jury saw anti-choice sages but also two organisations estined for Satan's table". wanted posters for what they
Not only does it list more are - a hit list for terrorists," championing them, the American Coalition of Life Activists and

Wild West' beyond control

were seven articles posted on report, they put it on the Net;

Wiping away data once it has

The problem worsens if you

been released to the network

try to ban such publication, as

Nottingham County Council

did over a report criticising its

handling of child-abuse cases.

When it barred three British

journalists from publishing the

when the council sought an

injunction, activists overseas

copied the page and displayed it. The Net had won.

. If you have something to say,

or a picture to show off, finding

space on the Web costs almost

and every word indexed by nothing. Now "free" Internet enough to find them will.

becomes an endless task.

close the website down as to cripple the finances of radical antiabortion organisations through punitive damages. It worked triumphantly in one sense, since Tuesday's judgment was the biggest financial blow yet dealt to anti-abortion organisations.

But forcing the groups to The suit was prompted by the hand over the money is likely death of Barnett Slepian, a doc- to be highly complicated and tor from Amherst in upstate ... subject to a lengthy appeals... process. The defendants vowed that they would never hand over a single penny.

"I could not in good conscience give money to an industry that thrives on killing children," Catherine Ramey, a defendant, said outside the courthouse. Other defendants said their finances were "judgment-proof", although they gave no details of what that meant. We will continue to do what we've been doing," said Charles Wysong, head of the American Rights Coalition, whose personal assets are largely tied up in the upbringing of his 15 children.

The controversy over the case hinges on the interpretation of the First Amendment, which guarantees the right to free speech. According to previous

UK have offered five free

megabytes of space. "People

are personally responsible for

what they publish. Defama-

tion and other laws do apply,'

said Tim Pearson, chairman of

censorship externally will fail.

"The Internet sees censorship

as damage, and routes around

it," said John Gilmore, a

founder member of the Elec-

Details from the anti-

tronic Frontier Foundation.

abortion website are almost

certainly still out there some-

where, and anyone determined

But attempts to impose

the UK ISP Association.

search engines around the Net. service providers (ISPs) in the

The plan was not so much to Supreme Court rulings, published material constitutes a threat only if it is likely to cause an "imminent lawless action".

> But in the Portland case, Judge Robert Jones directed the jury to use a lesser standard. saying the contents of the website should be deemed a threat if they could be interpreted that way by "a reasonable person" taking the context of the remarks into consideration.

es an abortionist could now be construed as threatening," the main defence lawyer, Christopher Ferrara of the American Catholic Lawyers Association, complained. "And that has to alarm anyone who's concerned

about the First Amendment." During the trial, Mr Ferrara admitted the website contained strong, even offensive, opinions, but said they did not to perform abortions. Roe vs

defence acknowledged, however, that abortion providers might be intimidated by the campaign against them. "If I was an abortionist, I would be afraid," said a defendant, Andrew Burnett, publisher of Life Advocate magazine.

There are signs that the atmosphere of intimidation is fast eroding the willingness of doctors "Any document that criticis- olence. Even witnesses for the ment that first legalised abortion

ONLINE OUTRAGE

In the first case filed under a new cyberstalking law in California. Gary Dellapenta was arrested last month for allegedly impersonating a woman on the Internet and saying she fantasised about being raped. Six men arrived at her apartment.

Abu Hamza al-Masri, the Muslim cleric who leads the London-based Supporters of Shariah, used the group's website to advertise an "Islamic Camp" at a mosque in Finsbury Park over Christmas. The site urged young Muslims to rise up and "defend" themselves

In March 1995 anarchists were found to have been using the Internet to plan disruption in schools and attacks on multinational firms. Police discevered anarchist cells circulating hundreds of computer files of seditious information. The files were obtained from terrorist groups, including The Sons of Glendower in Wales. Direct Action in France, and the Anti Imperialist Cell, a German anarcha terrorist group.

A personnel assistant at Glasgow Caledonian University was suspended by his employers last year for using the Internet to incite hatred among football hooligans in the build-up to the World Cup. lain Smith's website featured pictures of football violence and exchanges from hooligans all over Europe.

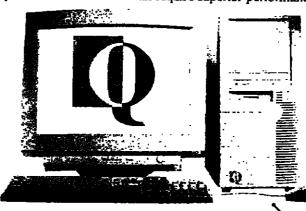
in 1974, recognises the right of women to opt for the procedure but does not make it mandatory for hospitals or state institutions to provide it. With every attack, the number of facilities goes down, and pro-choice groups are concerned about large areas of the country - particularly in the Bible Belt south - where women have little or no access to abortion services

> Leading article Review, page 3



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# Amnesty to send mission to Ulster

AMNESTY International an- By David McKittrick, nounced yesterday that it COLIN BROWN, AND would send a mission to Northern Ireland to investigate and monitor human rights issues, including the continuing "punishment" attacks.

Downing Street gave a cautious welcome to the initiative responded positively. after talks between the Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, and Tony Blair at the Com-Tory spokesman on Northern Ireland, Andrew Mackay, also lent their support.

Amnesty gave a different version of events, however, to the one provided by Mr Trimble. It stressed that its coverage would not be confined to the criticised human rights organquestion of paramilitary beatings but would cover a wide that they are over-critical of the range of issues that could cause government concern.

Earlier this week Mr Trimble announced that he had invited Amnesty International and another human rights group to Northern Ireland to report on the question of paramilitary beatings and shootALAN MURDOCH

ings. Yesterday, after the announcement that a mission was planned, he said he was pleased the organisation had

however, that it had written to Mr Trimble last July informing mons. Labour MPs and the him of its intention to send a mission to cover a wide range of human rights concerns and asking to meet him. He had not replied to the letter, it said.

Mr Trimble's public invitation was itself unusual in that Unionist politicians have often isations, generally on the basis security forces and of emergency legislation.

Amnesty International has concerned itself with many issues and individual cases in Northern Ireland, its annual reports often mentioning "punishment" attacks.



The Irish Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern, with Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, in Dublin yesterday to discuss the peace process PA

took place in Northern Ireland, dition as ill but stable. Police before the 10 March deadline. 40s was struck with a sledgestomach in an attack in the town of Lisnaskea. Co Fermanagh, which is regarded as one of Northern Ireland's quietest areas. A hospital

including a particularly serious said he was lucky to be alive. In incident in which a man in his another incident, a 40-year-old man was shot in the foot in a hammer and then shot in the Protestant area of east Belfast

Bertie Abern, the Irish Prime Minister met Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, in Dublin yesterday for talks to move the formation of spokesman described his con- the Ulster Assembly closer

Ms Mowlam said: "With a bit told MPs in the Commons that of determination, imagination, the Government would expect flexibility and just guts we'll get there. There is no complacency, we are all working flat out." Mr Trimble is refusing to sit

Sim Fein to honour its part of the Good Friday Agreement on the decommissioning of arms. A new political row erupted yesterday over claims that alin the same executive as Sinn leged intimidation of witnesses Fein leaders until the IRA bemay have led to IRA suspects gins decommissioning. Mr Blair is believed to have urged Mr being allowed to plead guilty to

Trimble to make progress, and manslaughter instead of murder. Senior Irish politicians expressed deep concern after four men on trial in Dublin since last month for killing Jerry McCabe, a police officer, in 1996 changed their pleas from not guilty of murder to guilty of manslaughter in an apparent plea bargain. The men

### Rift in IRA as guns go missing

BY DAVID MCKFITRICK Ireland Correspondent

A SIGN of the severe internal tensions within the IRA emerged last night when the republican movement publicly admitted that some of its guns had been seized by dissidents.

The Republican News. which is closely associated with Sinn Fein, said a small amount of IRA weaponry had been "secretly misappropriated by peo-ple who defected from its ranks more than a year ago. Most of those who left the or

ganisation went on to form the Real IRA," the splinter group responsible for the Omagh bomb atrocity that killed 29 people last August.

The unauthorised taking of weaponry is regarded by the IRA as a serious offence which has been followed, on occasions, by the killing of those held responsible.
One of those who left the IRA

just over a year ago was a former quartermaster-general who was responsible for hiding weaponry: Republican sources have always said that though he defected to the Real IRA he did not take any guns with him.

The disclosure may help explain recent reports of abductions and lights within IRA ranks. An IRA statement said investigations would continue "until all the missing weaponry has been recovered".

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# Bosses begin cull of awkward staff'

EMPLOYERS HAVE begun dis- By BARRIE CLEMENT missing "awkward" staff before the introduction of new laws on workers' rights, according to eading law firms.

advised to "deal with problem situations" ahead of imminent egislation that increases com- to shed staff because of poor pensation for unfair dismissel rom £12,000 to £50,000, a figure rising to £64,700 when an employer refuses to reinstate the employees concerned. He said sacked worker.

employment rather than two. Under the proposed law,

which could be on the statute book in April, workers in all from a legal point of view and British companies will have to involve employee representatives in disciplinary procedures of employees in a peremptory when it is requested.

law partner at the solicitors Bill also contained provisions Eversheds, said two large for the recognition of unions, corporate clients had already which might be hastened by

Labour Editor

Companies are being of the introduction of the new in the companies were trying performance, but they had not

The Employment Relations for advice on the issue. He told means employees will enjoy that firms in the City of London full legal protection from unfair were among those seeking to dismissal after one year's sack employees in advance of the new law.

Martin Warren, employment side". He pointed out that the

taken the decision to dismiss troublesome employees ahead law. Mr Warren said managers kept proper records to prove the incompetence of the another client had also asked

Mr Warren said that, while he would advise firms "purely

not from a moral one", they should be aware that getting rid manner might have a "down

attempts to dismiss staff before the law comes into force.

Roger Lyons, general secretary of the Manufacturing Science Finance union, warned against employers in industries unprotected by unions taking "evasive action". He said they would antagonise the employees left in the organisation. "This is hardly a recipe for harmonious relations in the workplace," he said.

Paul Goulding, head of the Employment Lawyers' Associ-Bill, published last week, also *Personnel Today* magazine ation, also added a note of caution. He said that companies failing to adhere to proper procedures when dismissing staff could find themselves

involved in costly litigation. David Bradley, of the lawyers Dibb Lupton, thought "cynical" employers might already have missed the boat. With the law expected to be in force by April, notice periods - especially among middle and senior managers might be too long to beat

"We believe this is the first

### How sleeping bird-brains keep one eye on safety

BY STEVE CONNOR Science Editor

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BTRDS CAN take 40 winks without being caught by a predator because they can, literally, stay half asleep with one eye open and the other closed, scientists have discovered.

A study of the unusual sleeping patterns of mallard ducks promises to help scientists to understand rare sleep disorders in humans. Biologists at Indiana State

University, led by Niels Rattenborg, say that birds can sleep with both eyes closed and their whole brain asleep, or they can rest half their brain by keeping one eye shut. "Birds have overcome the problem of sleeping in risky situations by developing the ability to sleep with one eye open and one hemisphere of the brain awake." the scientists report in the journal Noture.



Scientists have studied birds' sleeping patterns

Keeping one half of the brain at rest, called unihemispheric slow-wave sleep, is in contrast to the typical situation where eep and wakefulness are mutually exclusive states of the whole brain, the scientists say.

"We have found that birds can detect approaching predators during unihemispheric slow-wave sleep, and that they can increase the use of unihernispheric sleep as the risk of pre-

evidence for an animal behaviourally controlling sleep and wakefulness simultaneously." The scientists studied groups of mallard ducks while they rested side by side and found those at the edge of the group were significantly more likely to keep one eye open, with the closed eye being on the side of

its nearest neighbour. "We have found that birds sleeping under risky situations spend more time with one eye open and half the brain awake." said Dr Rattenborg.

The findings have important implications for sleeping patterns in humans, he said. "For example, the feeling of sleepiness and impaired performance experienced after losing sleep may occur because parts of the brain are falling asleep, while the other

### Singer's money troubles

TONY HADLEY, the former lead BY SARAH WESTCOTT singer of the 1980s pop group Spandau Ballet, told the High Court in London yesterday of his "desperate" financial situation as his attempts to build a solo career crumbled.

gles in the charts.

The singer earned £120,000

year when the band had sin-

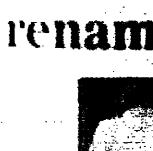
But Mr Hadley's failure to hit the big time as a successful solo artist forced him to sell his home to pay off a £50,000 overdraft in 1993, the court heard. "Maths has never been my forte - I would just go . Wow, lots of figures!' and sign forms," he

said. "I was in a desperate fi-

nancial situation." Mr Hadley and fellow former band members Steve Norman and John Keeble are suing the songwriter Gary Kemp for hundreds of thousands of pounds of allegedly unpaid publishing rovalties

The case continues,

ailor, oldie gaj



sitcom

hope on

US guru

THE PRODUCER of Roseann and The Cosby Show flew to Britain yesterday to oversee the launch of a first for British television - the adaptation of an American sitcom by American

The broadcaster, which has not made a successful sitcom since the Seventies, has brought in Tom Carsey to remake his US comedy That 70s Show with a British cast and setting. The programme goes on air on 12 February and ITV

hopes the £2.5m it is paying will

In the past, sitcom traffic has

been all the other way, with pro-

grammes such as Man About

the House and Till Death us do

Part becoming Three's Com-pany and All in the Family in

America. Only the Golden Girls was turned into a UK-produced

show, Brighton Belles, and it

was so bad it was taken off air

halfway through its run. Now ITV's lamentable record

at producing sitcoms has forced

While most UK sitcoms have

runs of just six episodes in a se-

it to import Hollywood "come-

dy factory" techniques.

end its comedy jinx.

BY PAUL MCCANN Media Editor

producers for PTV.

Espionage: The 'double outing' of Britain's chief spy in Prague threatens Anglo-Czech co-operation ITV pins

# Tinker, tailor, soldier,

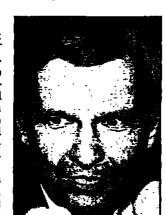
BY ADAM LEBOR Central Europe Correspondent

AN ABORTIVE bomb plot to destroy the Prague-based Radio Free Iraq; the public outing in every sense – of MI6's head of station in Prague; the sudden sacking of the head of the Czech intelligence service and the defection of Saddam Hussein's chief spymaster in Eastern Europe.

This is not the plotline of the latest thriller by John Le Carré, but the mysterious ingredients of the international spy scandal now playing to an audience of furious spooks from Baghdad to London, via Prague and other still-to-be-disclosed locations.

The web of intrigue threatens to wreck co-operation between the Czech Secret Service (BIS) and its Western counterparts and highlights the difficulties of integrating the espionage networks of post-Communist Eastern Europe into the Nato intelligence apparatus.

The Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland are scheduled to join Nato this spring. The se-



Karel Vulterin (left) was sacked as head of Czech counter-intelligence last week. Right: Prague, where intelligence service gossip has alarmed Nato

Communist states have historic ties dating from the Soviet era to parts of the developing world, such as the Middle East. So they are seen as boosting Nato's intelligence capabilities.

But Czech television this week named Christopher Hurran, a British diplomat in his 40s based in Prague, as head of station for MI6, the secret intelligence service. His name, address, pictures of his house and the fact he was gay and was liv-

lished in the Czech media. Now the Czech President, Vaclav Havel, says he is not certain how Nato will reveal classified information to the Czechs "when they see how in the Czech Republic absolutely everything gets gossiped about".

Mr Hurran's naming, which has infuriated Whitehall, followed the sacking last week of Karel Vulterin as head of Czech counter-intelligence services. British officials are livid be-

to try to pimpoint previous incumbents as possible MI6 agents. "We do a lot of detailed work with the intelligence services of these three countries. and there are virtually no secrets between us," said one Western analyst. "This episode in Prague and the fact that he [Hurran] has been named could be an embarrassment."

The Czech television station TV Nova reported that Mr **Hurran** had written to Jaroslav

cies may now use the incident Basta, minister for the secret bly to Britain, Czech television services, and to Mr Vulterin, reported that Mr Salim defectcomplaining of the poor quality of the work of the BIS.

The dispute is believed to

centre on a highly secret operation involving Jabir Salim, the Eastern Europe head of Saddam Hussein's secret police.

Formerly based in Prague, Mr Salim vanished in December. BIS officers angered MI6 by revealing his role as an alleged double agent, and he is now beed after he was ordered to oranise a bomb attack on Radio Free Iraq, the Prague-based broadcasters who beam anti-Saddam propaganda into Iraq.

Many in Prague believe that it was renegade elements in the BIS that leaked the name of the MI6 station head to the Czech press, possibly as revenge for

the sacking of Mr Vulterin. Both the secret services and

After the collapse of Communism in 1989, the new democracies were faced with a dilemma about their intelligence agents. "The Czechs decided to destroy their old intelligence service and build

many people angry and disaf-fected," said one analyst.

often the last refuge of disaffected pro-Communist ele-

ries, Doys Like These has been ments who resent the loss of commissioned for an initial run of 13 weeks with a further nine their old power and privileges. to come if it is a hit. Americans producers believe having more episodes of a comedy allows audiences to get to know characters quicker. In the UK sitcoms are traditionally in their second series before they become a hit. "We're supplying the experup a new one, but that left

tise of having produced hun-dreds of comedy shows," said Mr Carsey yesterday. The other aspect of the factory system is the writing. That 70s Show was written by a team of 12 writers who test

jokes on rehearsal audiences

before they reach a script. The UK series will be rewritten by two British writers, Sam "Almost certainly many of the Bain and Jesse Armstrong. old people are still there, you and will be set in Luton, Bedsimply can't clean out the fordshire, rather than Wisconsin. The premise of the show revolves around the lives of two families living next-door to each

# A glimpse behind the curtain of diplomatic intrigue

FEW AGENTS have been "outed" quite so luridly and comprehensively. But Christopher Hurran, the MI6 station chief in Prague turned unwilling star of Czech television, is a fairly typical example of the intelligence officer working under diplomatic cover at a British embassy.

Every foreign correspondent learns to spot them – the first or . second secretary you run into at this case, intelligence experts most certainly – whose identity

the embassy Christmas party, charming but utterly vague when pressed on their line of work. "Bit of politics, bit of economics, liaison, that sort of thing." The Diplomatic Service Moscow (and possibly Prague), by unknown to the host govern-

the third-ranked diplomat in the Prague mission. But he may not have been the only intelligence officer there.

In important posts such as What is slightly unusual in man in this case Mr Hurran al spouses as was Janet Chisholm,

said last night, is Mr Hurran's was known to the host governsenior rank. As counsellor, he is ment, and as such was perfectly placed to deal with "walk-in" defections during the Cold War.

Then there would be the invisibles who never broke cover whose identity was (theoreticalwife of an Mil6 man in Moscow,

super-spy Oleg Penkovsky exe- gle people cost less; for anothcuted by the Russians in 1962.

Even the fact that Mr Hurran is gay is less unusual today. In the mid-1980s, Sir Antony Duff, then head of MI5, pressed for homo-List gives no clue, and the For- a two-tier system might operate. ment. They could be first or for the service. To the service ing abroad with Afficer the Foreign Office; indeed, it can be an

or better than the Russians," one er, spouses can cause problems. MI6 veteran recalls.

The Hurran "outing" is unlikely to have been caused by nostalgia for the old days when Czech and British spooks were sexuals to be permitted to work on opposite sides. In contrast to the incompetible displayed i cret services are like the wing over Mr Hurran by the BIS; the in the house that's being seld. modern intelligences excice the

When ideologies change, se-The new buyer times the switch:

Augean stables entirely ...

# Astronomers go to war over the renaming of Pluto

BY CHARLES ARTHUR Technology Editor

HOW MANY astronomers does it take to change a planet? So many, apparently, that the International Astronomical Union - the science's governing body - was forced to step into a row yesterday over the status of Phito.

A proposal by the astronomer Brian Marsden that the planet be renamed "Trans-Neptunian Object No 10,000\* has caused such a stellar row between astronomers worldwide that the IAU was forced to issue a statement, to quell "widespread public concern".

Not since astronomers

struggled with the preferred pronunciation of Uranus has the discipline been so divided. Dr Marsden, the head of the Minor Planet Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts, has already identified 9,999 "trans-Neptunian objects". Now he

come No 10,000 and he may have science on his side. Pluto is quite unlike the

believes that Pluto should be-



Dr Brian Marsden, who believes that the planet Pluto should be reclassified as a "Trans-Neptunian Object"

ered in 1930, almost a century after Neptune, it is a minuscule, rocky body unlike the other outer planets, which are gas

this year it lies inside Neptune's orbit - making it a trans-Neptunian object (TNO). Furthermore, it orbits at an

angle of 17 degrees compared with all the other planets. But the idea is not proving



popular. "There is ... denigraother eight planets. Discovtion of the idea that such things as Pluto could be put in the same category as asteroids," Dr Marsden said

"Somebody said to me, Why classify Pluto with the cosmic It has a highly elliptical orbit, which means that until later riff-raff?' It's unfortunate but some people are being extremely dogmatic." Earlier this week the Amer-

ican Astronomical Society, one of the most powerful in the world, made the bald statement that "this action would

undoubtedly be viewed by the broader scientific community and the general public as a 'reclassification' of Pluto from a major planet to a minor planet. We feel that there is little scientific or historical justification for such an action."

Donald Yeomans of the AAS said from his office at Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory: "We're hoping for a statement from the IAU soon, and we have recommended that the status quo be maintained. We have had correspondence from hundreds of astronomers and there's very little support for

doing anything to Piuto." An alternative to Dr Marsden's radical idea, being considered by the IAU, would be to define Pluto as both a major and a minor planet.

Either way, the IAU's Executive Committee (Division III) will soon vote on the matter though Dr Michael A'Hearn, its chair insists that any decision "will not alter either the true nature of Pluto or the historical record of its having been generally considered a planet".

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Plights are with Monarch Airlines modern A310

aircraft departing London Galwick. The Hotel Selection is as follows:

Hotel Spagna - located in the sophisticated Spagna Avenue, the hotel is family run and decorated in the 'romantic style' with its colourful interior colours and materials. There are just 19 rooms all with en suite facilities, telephone and satellite television.

include a restaurant overlooking the Grand Canal well known locally for serving classical venetian and Italian dishes. There is a lounge, an American bar and a terrace onto the Grand Canal Supplement to per night.

Hotel Montecarlo - has an intimate and telephone and salellite television.

Hotel Continental - located in the Lista di
Spagna district facing the Grand Canal. There
are 93 rooms with en suite facilities, telephone,
satellite television, and sale. The public facilities

Hotel Montecarlo - has an intimate and
exclusive feel to it being comfortably
furnished in Venetian style. The hotel is
located a stone throw away from St Marks
Square along one of Venice's typical narrow

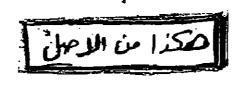
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lanes. The 48 rooms are all en suite with television and telephone. Supplement £7 per night.

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about

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# Ashdown says PR will split parties

LABOUR AND the Tories will BY ANDREW GRICE each split into two parties but Political Editor the Liberal Democrats will not merge with Labour, Paddy Ashdown predicted last night.

proportional representation where it really should be - in the (PR) for House of Commons elections would happen, even though his failure to persuade Tony Blair to call an early referendum on the issue is believed to have been one factor in his decision to stand down as Liberal Democrat leader this summer

In a lecture in London, Mr Ashdown angered Labour MPs hostile to close links with his party by saying Labour was "irrevocably split" over its direction. Predicting that leftwingers would form a breakaway after PR was brought in. he said: "New Labour would be liberated and the left would have a voice again. No more internal appeasement, no more loveless marriages.

The only thing holding Labour together was electoral expediency, said Mr Ashdown. Under PR, the left could win 10 per cent of the votes in some parts of the country and a new socialist party could win a small number of Commons seats.

He said the Tories were already "two parties at war with one another" because of their 
Mr Ashdown accused Mr over Europe.

"The adoption of PR for Westminster would make it would become formal and final, was set up last year.

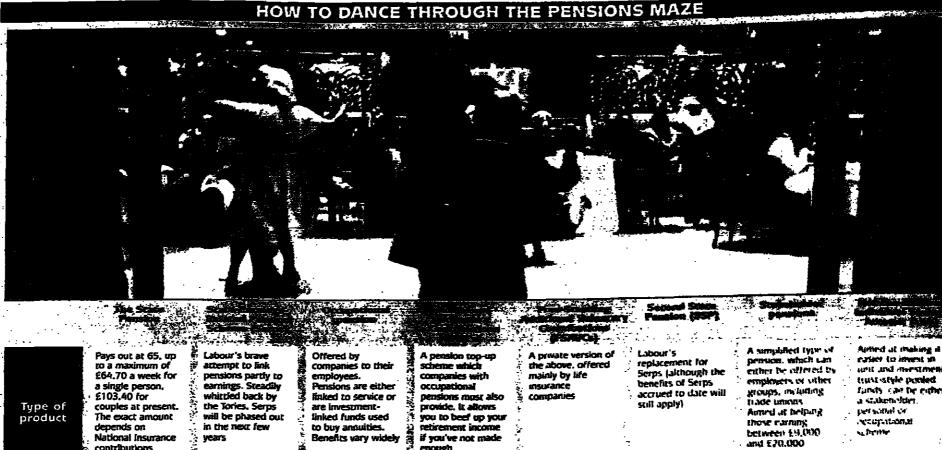
and that the battle that is now being fought inside the Con-He said the introduction of servative Party would be fought open, between two separate parties, with the electorate as judge," he said.

Although some Blairites advocate an eventual merger between Labour and the Liberal Democrats. Mr Ashdown insisted: "This is not my vision and never has been. In fact my aim is the opposite... to help create a political environment where people can work together without having to be in the same party."

He said politicians should not offer the voters a choice between "this lot" and "that lot" but. between a number of different approaches such as Thatcherism, Clarkeism, Blairism, so-

Despite growing criticism from Labour MPs of Mr Blair's policy of forging closer links with Mr Ashdown and his party, Jack Cunningham, the Cabinet's enforcer, met Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat deputy leader, yesterday to discuss the working of the joint cabinet

"deep and unbridgeable" split Blair yesterday of raiding £100m. from the National Health Service modernisation fund for the nurses' pay rise announced this likelier than not that the breach week, saying this contradicted in the Conservative Party the fund's guidelines when it



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# Lisa unveiled as pension of future

PLANS FOR a flexible pensions BY NIC CICUTTI investment vehicle, aimed at Personal Finance Editor encouraging greater savings for old age, were unveiled yes-

Against

terday by the Government. The proposal, which Treasury officials said could be combined with Labour's earlier proposals for stakeholder pensions, will offer a "transparent" tax-free wrapper within which pooled investments can be held. The new vehicle, which offi-

Will pay out

most. The scheme

is also judged too

cials emphatically denied will be called a "lifelong individual savings account", or Lisa, will allow savers to hold "suitable" funds currently sold by unit and investment trust groups. It would be aimed at individuals who do not have occupational pension schemes or cannot afford the high fees often charged

It is for the very large chunk of people for whom it would be useful to have a pension to move around with, who have modest earnings around or even below average incomes, who can put small

cial said Despite its stated aims, some pensions experts wondered whether the new vehicle offered anything not available by other means.

amounts or hump sums away

for their retirement," one offi-

Peter Tompkins, from the Institute of Actuaries pensions board, said: "I do not think there is a lot of beef there. It is really about an investment structure and we are rather mystified that many of the things they said would apply here already do with existing

While the vehicle was aimed at extending the flexibility available under the Government's stakeholder proposals, published in December, it could also be used for occupational pension schemes and even personal pensions, it was claimed yesterday. A ceiling on charges for

the new vehicle will be imposed and the Treasury has made it clear that it would like fees to be a modest annual percentage with no or low initial and exit fees.

Alistair Darling, Secretary of State for Social Security, said the new mechanism would ensure the success of stakeholder pensions, which are designed to help middle-income earners save for retirement and avoid being dependent on welfare benefits.

"Stakeholder pensions are a

crucial part of our plans. They will provide the secure, flexible and value for money pensions that those on middle incomes lack under the current system," Mr Darling said. Schemes will be regulated by

the Financial Services Authority, the City watchdog. The way they look after pension-plan holders will be overseen by the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority.

Investors will be able to move from scheme to scheme. check the value of their funds on a daily basis and even transfer them from employer to employer. But officials yesterday were unable to say whether an employee with funds in one "pooled" investment vehicle would be able to ask his employer to contribute to that, rather than that company's ex- proposals." isting one.

was seeking suggestions for a more appropriate name than Lisa, as the vehicle has been dubbed so far, reflecting that they are designed for retirement. Duncan Mackechnie, chief

The Treasury added that it

executive at Direct Line, the telephone-based financial services group, said he backed the key thrust of yesterday's proposals: "In broad terms it is to be welcomed especially its emphasis on adding value to most people's pensions."

However, Angela Knight, chief executive at the Association of Private Client Investment Managers and Stockbrokers, said last night: "We are concerned that the Government has said nothing about direct equity investment in these

Outlook, page 18

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# Teenage girl drowns during Prince's Trust sailing trip

A TEENAGE girl died and By GARY FINN two others were injured yesterday when their dinghy capsized during a sailing trip organised by The Prince's

Trust Volunteers. The girl, who has not been named, was among a party of 15 trainees and five instructors on an outing in the Milford

Haven estuary in west Wales. An RAF helicopter, the Anglesey lifeboat and other craft were sent to the scene near

BY RHYS WILLIAMS

THE MAKERS of the Oscar-

tipped film Shakespeare in

Love rejected claims yesterday

that it may have borrowed ele-

ments of its plot from an obscure comic novel written in 1941.

Attention had been drawn to

similarities between No Bed for

Bacon, by Caryl Brahms and

S J Simon, and the screenplay

for the film about the Bard's

love life co-written by the playwright Tom Stoppard and an

No Bed for Bacon features a heroine called Viola who pre-

tends to be a boy so she can act

on the Elizabethan stage. She

falls in love with a Shakespeare struggling with writer's block, who, inspired by their romance,

writes one of his finest plays. That is broadly the film's plot. David Parlitt, co-producer,

called the claims "nonsense".

script Stoppard amended,

"knew nothing of the book".

He said Norman, who wrote the to go in disguise

American, Marc Norman.

'Shakespeare'

copycat dispute

film script in

AND TONY HEATH

spotted their red distress flare at about 3.30pm. Two people were seen in the water, with a third reported trapped under the upturned hull.

Milford Haven coastguard said the accident happened in "reasonably calm" water, and weather conditions during the exercise were good. A Prince's

Stoppard: 'Drawing from well of Shakespeariana'

Stoppard, who is in India, wrote

to the Evening Standard, saying both script and book draw

from the same well of Shakespeariana. Some similarities

are fact - Shakespeare was

caught between rival theatre

companies, and women were

not allowed on stage and so had

Leading article,

Review, page 3

craft were sent to the scane near Carr Rocks at Pembroke, after said all involved had been the Irish ferry MV Normandy wearing life jackets.

after her rescue. Officers were contacting her family in England to inform them of the tragedy. A coastguard spokesman group were accounted for"

hospital, although their condi-

The girl was taken by heli-copter to Withybush Hospital, Dyfed-Powys police, who have begun an investigation. Haverfordwest, but Dyfedsaid four or five people were in the capsized dingby, which was Powys police last night confirmed her death three hours one of four 14ft sailing craft being used by the group.

The latest accident is a further blow to the reputation of The Prince's Trust. It was fined £10,000 in November after said: "All the others in the same admitting responsibility for the deaths of two volunteers The other two people res- who were killed when a cued are still being treated in concrete wall collapsed on them on the Orkney island of tions are not said to be serious. North Ronaldsay.

### IN BRIEF Teenager in canal 'was murdered'

THE DEATH of a 16-year-old schoolboy whose body was found in a canal is being treated as murder, police said. Divers found the body of George Mortimer on Tuesday at Exminster Marshes, less than a mile from his home in

Exeter, Devon. Two men were being questioned last night.

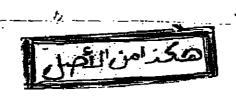
Tagged prisoners recalled to jail TWO PRISONERS released early under the electronic tagging scheme launched last week have been recalled to prison, the Home Office confirmed yesterday. They are the first on the Home Detention Curfew scheme to be recalled. About 250 prisoners have been freed under the scheme,

Sarwar 'paid for false statement' THE LABOUR MP Mohammed Sarwar gave a rival £5,000 cash for a false statement about voter registration irregularities, the High Court in Edinburgh was told yesterday. Badar Islam stood for the Glasgow Govan seat

in 1997 against Mr Sarwar, who denies fraud charges. Riot police called to wedding MORE THAN 20 police in riot gear armed with CS gas were called to halt a fight at a wedding reception in Horfield, Bristol. Three men were fined yesterday over the violence last August, including two of the

bridegroom's uncle. Diana letters returned to lover SIXTY-FOUR love letters written by Diana, Princess of Wales to James Hewitt were returned to the former Life Guards

officer, ending the threat of a High Court case against Lawrence Graham, the law firm acting for her estate. Two share £4.1m lottery jackpot TWO TICKET holders shared last night's £4.1m National Lottery jackpot. The winning numbers were 3, 16, 18, 24, 39 and 47. The bonus number was 17.





# Labour backs down on ramblers' rights

GOVERNMENT has By Paul Waugh ered down a manifesto dge to give walkers an restricted Right to Roam oss the countryside. Under posals to be unveiled next ith, ministers will announce tutory and voluntary meares guaranteed to provoke a ous response from Labour 's and the ramblers' lobby iore than 100 Labour back-

Political Correspondent

next month for a private member's Bill that would give walkers and ramblers a comprehensive freedom to roam across areas now restricted.

However, The Independent has learnt that the Bill, to be published by Gordon Prentice, Labour MP for Pendle, will not ichers are expected to vote receive government backing.

Ministers will produce their own proposals shortly before the Bill receives its second reading on 26 March, but those plans will not give ramblers the access they have demanded. Government plans will create a statutory framework to allow access to open land through voluntary agreements between

councils and landowners. The Bill will cover five areas moorland, mountains, heath,

down and common land – and the agreements will exempt landowners from liability for any accidents or injuries caused to walkers.

The proposals would tidy up the 1949 National Parks Act. which allowed for voluntary agreements but has proved ineffective, giving greater access to only 50,000 acres.

In a move that will further upset the rambling lobby, The changes to the Bill will

Government Bill is not likely to who have taken part in mass reaction on the back benches. be introduced until 2001.

Ministers believe the hybrid approach will help to open up about 4 million acres of open land on a permanent basis.

When in opposition, Labour pledged to overturn centuriesold landowners' rights by giving walkers a legal mandate to wander freely in open country.

trespass campaigns, Downing Street, however, is keen to keep the countryside

lobby on board - as seen earlier this week when it emerged that No 10 had approached a former Country Landowners' Association president to chair

the new Countryside Agency Mr Prentice said last night that government failure to back

it has also emerged that a infuriate some Labour MPs his Bill would provoke a strong as would any backing off from tough legislation.

As well as more than 100 MPs, Mr Prentice expects support from ministers and former cabinet members. "Labour is reinventing itself as a party of the centre-right. There is going to be a reaction against that from its core supporters; this is one of those issues," he said.

David Beskin, a spokesman for the Ramblers' Association. said a move towards voluntary agreements would be resisted. "If they go for voluntary agreements, that won't change

the law drawn up 50 years ago. The 1949 Act has not worked. "We want a presumption in favour of access, and any move away from that will leave people angry. We will actually

campaign against such a plan.

### t's London Men's Fashion Week ... so <sup>(तिका</sup>सी होता । उन where are Paul Smith. and Ozwald Boateng, then?

THE INTERPRED

SIONS MAZE

erman pairt of the plane. Plan will provide the sector of the still rather for money premiers their those ou middle garraine lick under the current 1/2 lotts. Mr Darbing worl Schulers will be trapped in

the Financial September Author We the lifty watershop The way that had after pension plan haders will be overseen to the Cristollarial Irranena here. belowy Authorsts

Investors will be able to be at the tions from which to where, there rhers, the same of their functs of prop. भक्त के के के के किया है कि किया है। for them from employer to division day were unable to say whether Matter. proded investment orbities organic would be able to sek by one has a Miller Char that cretificate but a printer

ONDON MEN'S Fashion Week

MFW) kicked off quietly yesrday morning with a fivetionally, as the weaknes our gap after two designers

illed out from their catwalk lows at the last minute. Designers Ken Odimah and affrey Green had suffered failiar fashion fates: Odimah's nancial backer pulled out, and affrey Green's collection was

eek, the glamorous women's ent that has been in existence nce 1983 and which now impetes internationally with aris, Milan and New York, MFW is only nine months -d, this being the second event. And it has a long way to go

tionally, as the weakness of the schedule, not to mention two designers pulling out, proved. The only well-known names

holding catwalk presentations were John Rocha who showed last night, and Paul Costelloe who shows this morning. Ironically, neither of these designers is British. Costelloe is Irish, Unlike London Fashion and Hong Kong-born Rocha is based in Dublin. Instead, all the top British-

born-and-bred menswear designers show in Paris and

Paul Smith, Ozwald Boateng and Burro (who showed at the first LMFW last July) showed it wants to compete internatheir latest collections in Paris



during the past week. Two weeks earlier, Vivienne West-

wood and John Richmond had shown in Milan.

Olaf Parker, the designer for Burro, decided to stay away in favour of Paris simply because of finance. "We would like to

support the British thing, but London just doesn't attract the right people. In Paris we are guaranteed that the photographers, buyers and press are going to be there. In London they seem more concerned

Rowley, is philosophical. "It our growth." takes time for these kind of and they continue their support

for another year. I am looking

Mr Rowley has decided to events to grow. We have been focus on helping young sponsored by Honda who are menswear labels to gain a being phenomenally helpful, foothold in the market. "We're giving them a chance to get

The event organiser, John to next year as the acid test of about promoting British

The British menswear industry has grown by more than 30 per cent this decade. Retail expenditure on menswear was £7.7bn in 1997, of which about their businesses going. This is £1bn went on designer brands.

### Nelson is branded **Butcher** of Naples

BY GARY FINN

ADMIRAL HORATIO Nelson has become the latest British icon to suffer at the hands of historians, after an Italian scholar claimed the scafaring hero was in fact a brutal war criminal

Nelson's reputation has come under attack from Professor Antonio Gargano for his part in the suppression of a liberal uprising in southern Italy 200 years ago. Professor Gargano claims Nelson interfered in a legitimate public uprising.

The rebels, according to Professor Gargano, had successfully negotiated with King Ferdinand IV of Naples to end their insurrection peacefully but when Nelson's fleet arrived in the Bay of Naples, events took a bloodier turn. Instead of an amicable settlement, said Professor Gargano, the rebels were subjected to a bloody round of trials and hangings that earned Nelson the nickname the "Butcher of Naples".

That view was condemned last night by one of his biographers, Tom Pocock, who said: "He was defending Britain's interests against a rebellion which was pretty liberal but was seen as an extension of the regime of the guillotine."

When did you last

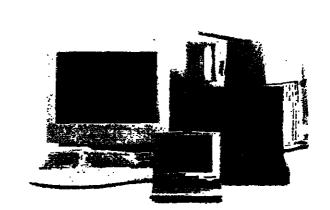


# trowns during sailing trip

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### Half-hearted Hague fails to deliver six of the best questions

is like one of those grim theatrical events in which the principal actors mill around on stage before the curtain goes up. The leads must decide must hold up. on a plausible expression as they wait for the pre-performance hubbub to die away and this isn't always easy. Should they be contemplative or distracted? Should they exchange pleasantries with colleagues or wait in splendid isolation? Should they catch the aud ience's eyes or not? For Mr Blair the ordeal doesn't last very long.

He, presumably, waits somewhere behind the Speaker's chair, being given a last-minute massage

ber only moments before Big Ben bongs the hour, so there is a limit on how long his facial overture

Yesterday he had settled on a cheery grin, which occasionally tipped into laughter. It was a look that expressed assurance and relish. Why, there was nowhere he'd rather be than here at the heart of things, looking forward to the mixture of Tory derision and Labour sycophancy that is his unvarying diet on Wednesday afternoons.

Mr Hague, on the other hand, looked in low morale - there was no quiet smile of anticipation as he con-

templated the smartness of his dialogue, no hint of eagerness in the tilt of the head. Even his pate had lost its customary gleam. He looked as if he'd rather be anywhere else, anywhere rather than facing this compulsory dish of ineffectual

All this may be wild projection on my part, of course - an interpretation coloured by the desultory, halfhearted performance that followed. Because Mr Hague was certainly not in good spirits yesterday, tackling his chosen themes with a marked lack of conviction.

There was some surprise too at his choice of topics. "Who does the

THE SKETCH

**THOMAS** SUTCLIFFE

Prime Minister think should be the next manager of England?" he asked first, as if he was making con-

ly and Mr Blair fell for it, ending his reply by conceding that he "should leave that to the Football Association". This was exactly what Mr Hague wanted him to say but he didn't need to worry. The Leader of the Opposition could hardly be bothered to deliver the counter-punch, in which he invited Mr Blair to agree that there "is a limit to the number of things politicians should stick

their noses into". Next he moved on to the matter of genetically modified food. Mr Blair's eyes skidded wildly across the tags of his briefing book. Genetical-

versational foreplay with a new hairdresser. It was a feint natural anywhere near the Labour front line. It was somewhere in Alaska.

Mr Hague pressed him on why the Government had ignored advice from English Nature and Mr Blair looked judicious, talked about the best scientific advice and wrinkled his brow in puzzlement at the obsional quirks of the Honourable Gentleman opposite.

If Mr Hague had Lord Sainsbury of Turville in his sights with this estion then he had missed a trick, because a little later Caroline Spelman (C, Meriden) produced a far more promising snare. Why she asked, were the Government

shop and a five-acre supermarket should pay exactly the same amount to fund the new Food Stan-

dards Agency? This question had everything going for it - public sympathy for the underdog, suspicion of big business, the possibility of squeezing some

shifty-sounding equivocation out of the Prime Minister. When the session ended Mr Hague had used only five out of his six allotted questions. If he had had his wits about him he would have swallowed his pride and followed Ms Spelman's sharp initiative with the

# **Tories attack** 'muddle' over altered foods

WILLIAM HAGUE accused the Prime Minister of ignoring expert advice to create a moratorium on genetically modified crops yesterday, arguing that and of course there is a govsuch a measure would be com-

But Tony Blair insisted during question time that the Government would proceed logically and scientifically and "not on the basis simply of prejudice of either side of the debate, because that would only serve to increase public put before them." concern on the matter".

Mr Hague said: "The effect of the muddle in government policy is to increase public concern and not to decrease public concern. Why doesn't the market loyalty cards would be Government do the commonsense thing and listen to the ad- es and compare them with canvice of its own experts and at cer cases. least put on hold the release of these new and unfamiliar seeds Minister of Agriculture, refer-

until the research is done? on that scale, wouldn't it be better to impose a moratorium and to do so now?" he said.

Replying, Mr Blass insisted: ically modified foods. "We are doing research on this "

By Sarah Schaefer Political Reporter

ernment committee looking at it too. But I think we do have to proceed on the best scientific evidence, since we are also talking about something where the potentials are very great indeed ... the worst way to proceed is to raise fears in the public mind before evidence is

Mr Hague also pointed to the "huge public concern" about the possible health and environmental impact of GM foods after reports suggested superused to monitor their purchas-Earlier Tim Yeo, the shadow

ring to the reports, claimed "When those concerns exist the Government was using the public as "unknowing guinea pigs" in a "vast but secret human experiment" on genet-

His concerns were echoed for not"

by Labour MPs who called for an immediate ban on the commercial use of GM products, socalled Frankenstein foods.

Joan Walley, the MP for Stoke North, claimed it had caused an outbreak of a fatal disease that infected 5,000 people, disabling 1,500 and leaving

She told MPs that a mix-up of soya beans with a batch of food supplement produced by genetically engineered bacteria had led to the epidemic in the United States.

"After GM soya beans were mixed up with non-GM soya beans in America, and Monsanto (the biotechnology company) has apparently persisted in their view that segregation is impracticable, it has become impossible for the consumers of many processed foods to know whether or not those foods contain GM soya.

"Some 60 per cent of processed food uses soya. The vast majority of us therefore have already been exposed to these beans, whether we like it



Glenda Jackson helps to release 2,361 balloons on Hampstead Heath, London, celebrating donors to the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust. The charity wants to boost the total of donors in its silver jubilee year Mark Children's The car's out of the bag."

### Peer calls for £5 fee to visit doctor

Chief Political Correspondent

PATIENTS SHOULD be charged £5 to visit their GP and a new "health tax" should be levied to help to foot the hill for NHS staff wages and better patient care.

a Tory peer urged last night. Opening a Lords debate on the health service, Baroness Gardner of Parkes, a former dentist, said the Government should use its large Commons majority to introduce funding changes - perbaps even a new

She told peers: "This Government has a large majority and it should be brave enough to make the changes necessary to provide adequate funding to ensure a strong base for the NHS in the 21st century, either by charges or by a senarate health tax or by moving to an entirely new basis for funding health care, such as the suc-

cessful Australian system." She suggested £5 a visit would not seem unreasonable but Lady Gardner stressed: "My views differ from official Conservative Party policy."

Government claimed later: "The Tory front bench, the Tory back bench and Tory think-tanks are encared in a barely hidden agenda to pre-

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### Rose warns of Kosovo risks

BRITISH TROOPS could end up being dragged into a war in Kosovo if they were sent in to separate Serbs and ethnic Albanians, the former head of the UN peace-keeping force in Bosnia told MPs yesterday.

General Sir Michael Rose told the Commons Defence Select Committee that air strikes were the best means of preventing further ethnic cleansing and atrocities in the province. Nato ground forces, he said, should be used instead to police the border between Kosovo and Albania to prevent the conflict from escalating.

However, if the Serbs continued to attack the ethnic **PEACEKEEPING** BY PAUL WAUGH Political Correspondent

Albanians in the region, Nato should seriously consider training and arming the Kosovo Liberation Army, he said.

Sir Michael, who was an SAS commander before he led the UN peace keeping work in Bosnia, said there was a danger that any Nato force going into the region would end up being dragged into a war and

acting as an army of occupation. "The difficulty I see with Nato over Kosovo is that they are confusing what can be done by a war-fighting force with

what can be done by a peace- used before Nato ground forces keeping force," he said. "If war does break out again or if there is more ethnic cleansing, then the next option should be to deploy Nato in a preventative

role along the border." The border between Kosovo and Albania is only 100 miles long, Sir Michael said, and the deployment of troops would send a strong signal to the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, to abide by political

agreements. Failing that, Nato

could start a "train and equip

programme" for the KLA so it could take on the superior might of the Serb forces.

were sent in, Sir Michael said. "I would not stick them straight in straight away. That would be a hostage to fortune. Peace-keepers always end up

being shot at by both sides." Sir Michael added that politicians needed to be aware of the dangers of sending ground troops into Kosovo. "You are talking about an army of occupation and a war," he said.

His remarks were made to the select committee as part of its investigation into the future role of Nato and whether it should become involved in peace-keeping missions on behalf of the UN.

### State will be 'mis-selling pensions'

THE GOVERNMENT'S "chaotic" proposals for pension reform would be the "mother and father" of all pensions misselling scandals, the Tories

said yesterday. Iain Duncan Smith, the shadow Social Security Secretary warned that plans outlined in the Green Paper on pension reform last December would

BY SARAH SCHAEPER Political Reporter

lead pensioners to follow government advice and join the stakeholder schemes even if they were not necessarily the "best or cheapest" investment. Speaking during a Tory-led long-term saving will be confused about what to do and will need advice, but they will have to pay for it. The public will turn around and say, Were we not mis-sold this?"

His concerns were echoed by Frank Field, the former Social Security minister, who said there were "big question

has to make decisions about marks over whether we have got the reform right" Speaking after the Lifetime

Individual Savings Account (Lisa) plans were unveiled, Alistair Darling, the Secretary of State for Social Security, said: "What we want to do is to give pensioners flexibility. There are people who move around a lot more than in the past."

### Shop levy plans TONY BLAIR signalled a

government rethink on proposals to impose a £90 flat levy on all food shops to pay for the new Food Standards Agency. Small retailers reacted angrily last week to plans to charge corner shops the same fee as supermarkets. "The reason we put it forward originally was that it was going to be much more easy to administer than a graduated charge, but of course this is one of the things the consultative paper will look at," the Prime Minister told MPs.

Health tax call

A NEW "health tax" and charges to visit GPs should be levied to help to foot the bill for NHS staff wages and better patient care, said Baroness Gardner of Parkes, a Tory peer.

### THE HOUSE

debate, he said: "Anyone who



Fire warning RISING PENSION payouts

have financially crippled firefighting in London, Vincent Cable, the Liberal Democrat MP for Twickenham, warned. Dr Cable said: "If there is a major emergency then the fewer fire tenders there are, the fewer firefighters there are, the greater the response time and the greater the risk of death."

No Rock secret TONY BLAIR insisted that the Government was

working very closely with the Gibraltarian authorities to bring to an end a dispute with Spain over fishing rights. He dismissed claims by Sir Teddy Taylor, the Tory MP for Rochford and Southend East, that there was a "secret deal" involving the Government which was

Today's agenda Commons 11.30am

causing "huge suffering" for the people of the Rock.

■ Questions to Agriculture **■** English Revenue Support Grant Reports

Short debate on parapets on bridges over motorways. Lords 3pm
Disability Rights

■ Social Security Benefits **Up-rating Order** ■ Police and Criminal Evidence Act (Codes of Practice) Order

### **QUESTIONS** AND ANSWERS

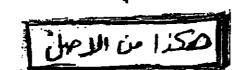
Herbal revision THE GOVERNMENT has

asked the Medicines Control Agency to study revising the list of "potent or toxic" herbs, Health minister Tessa Jowell said:

Work for nurses NEW CONTROLS OR NHS re-employment of nurses sacked for misconduct are being considered. Health

minister Baroness Hayman told the Lords. Rat controls

CIVIL SERVANTS are looking into the control of sewer rats, Environment minister Alan Meale said.



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### Peer calls for £5 fee to visit doctor

HEALTH SERVICE Br COLIN BROWN Clact Political Corresponden

PATIENTS SHOULD be charged to le visit their till and a fee "health tax" should be levied to help to lead the builter MIS stall waters and better testem care a Tery peer argod last night

Opening a Lords debute of the besitti warener Eurones Charling of Parkes a former derited, said the Government alterial new to have the company majority to introduce coding Qualities des grandes constitutes

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ANSWERS

Herbal revision

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# **HOME NEWS/9** Official: Zinoviev Letter was forged



Soviet propaganda chief and purported author of letter to British Communist Party

THE ZINOVIEV Letter, which was blamed for Labour losing the 1924 general election, was almost definitely a forgery, an inquiry has concluded.

British intelligence chiefs probably knew it was a fake but released it because they were happy for Labour to be destabilised by its inflammatory language. A Foreign Office official who had incurred heavy debts through currency speculation may have sold a copy to the Daily Mail, whose publication of it caused such a furore.

These are the conclusions reached by Gill Bennett, the Foreign Office's chief historian, who has been given access to British and Soviet files to try to solve the mystery.

The letter was addressed to the Communist Party of Great Britain, purportedly from Grigory Zinoviev, the man in charge of Soviet efforts to encourage Communist activity abroad. It called on British Commu-

nists to mobilise "sympathetic forces" in the Labour Party and badly damaged Labour when it was published in the Mail, whose editor was Thomas Marlowe.

Ms Bennett said she believes the letter was the work of White Russian émigrés tsarists who opposed the Bol-Britain's first Labour governsheviks - who were angry that ment had signed a treaty with

**Immigration** 

chaos costs

BRITAIN IS losing "tens of millions of pounds" in investment Home Affairs Corre

because the Immigration and Nationality Directorate has

ground to a halt, it was claimed

Britain's immigration process

country", with businessmen

and asylum-seekers facing

months of delays for visas or

The chaotic situation is em-

barrassing the Government,

which has pledged in a White

Paper to encourage foreign in-

vestment by lowering immigra-

tion barriers to entrepreneurs.

It has also undermined plans

to cut the backlog of asylum-

seekers, which has grown to

65,000, as the number of appli-

cations being processed has

fallen from 3,000 to 800 a month.

Mike O'Brien, ordered an overhaul of the system in an effort to

end years of inefficiency. He ac-

cepted there would be "consid-

December to February as computers were upgraded and the di-

rectorate moved from its offices in Croydon, south London. But

immigration sources said in one building alone staff were strug-

gling to cope with 10,000 unsort-

ed documents and two weeks of

to bill the estate of a British

skier for £22,000 after blaming

him for starting an avalanche

day. Mr Brooke-Dean, who ould have been 50 today, was

snowpack slid on to his group.

Survivors raised the alarm and

four helicopters, seven dogs

and a 60-strong team were

they were likely to bill Mr

Brooke-Dean's estate for the

cost of the operation, because

showed he had contributed to

investigation

Yesterday Swiss officials said

Alan Brooke-Dean, from

in which he died.

ith seven others.

upheaval" from

Dead skier's estate

will get rescue bill

Dorset, died in Verbier on Mon-iers, which mounted the rescue,

He was crushed when a mally pays for the rescue op-

1,500ft section of an off-piste eration. This operation could

SWISS OFFICIALS say they plan BY GARY FINN

The Immigration minister,

residency applications.

p was "worse than a Third World

International lawyers said

vesterday.

**UK** millions



James Ramsay MacDonald Britain's first Labour prime minister, was severely embarrassed by the letter

By LOUISE JURY

the Soviet Union and was also providing it with money.

The White Russians had the means – a forging circle – and the contacts in the West and in Moscow to be able to produce the letter and circulate it.

Ms Bennett said: "The story remains incomplete ... the Zinoviev Letter remains, as before, a most extraordinary and mysterious business." But her inquiries, including

a visit to Moscow, led her to dismiss speculation that the letter was part of a plot by British in-telligence staff to discredit both the Bolsheviks and the Labour government. Neither was it likely that Zi-

noviev wrote the letter, she said. Russia wanted the British loan and was therefore holding back on fomenting discontent.

However, when the letter emerged in London, intelligence staff, including Desmond Morton, later Churchill's close aide, and Joseph Ball, who later worked for Conservative Central Office, may have decided to use it for their own political means. The Tories certainly capitalised on the affair, raising the possibility that they leaked it to the Mail.

Alternatively, the intelligence services may have passed it to the paper themselves. Another possibility was

Home Affairs Correspondent

Julia Onslow-Cole, a partner

with the London lawyers

Cameron McKenna, and chair-

man of the International Bar

Association's immigration com-

mittee, said the system had become "totally chaotic".

to have a situation which is

paralysing business applica-

tions whilst issuing this

rhetoric about trying to get en-

trepreneurs into the country."

ica, South Africa and the Mid-

dle East had been affected by

the delays. Foreign business

people based in Britain are ma-

rooned here for months; while

extensions to their residence

permits are being reconsid-

travelling abroad to important

business meetings, she said.

gration system ran into prob-

lems last July, when computer

sub-contractors pulled out of the project. Home Office offi-

cials decided to press ahead

with the move to new offices, al-

though the new system has

move was causing a "temporary drop in service" but urgent

cases were still being dealt with.

the avalanche by ignoring signs

alerting skiers to the dangers

said: "In Switzerland it is the

person who is rescued or their

insurance company that nor-

cost 50,000 Swiss francs

(£22,000) ... it may have been

their [the group's] fault that the

avalanche started." But Mr

Fournier added that it was difficult to tell exactly how

A Briton who died in an

avalanche in Val-d'Isère,

France, on Tuesday was a

chalet manager, Mark Wilson.

avalanches start.

Pascal Fournier, of Air Glac-

of off-piste conditions.

The Home Office said the

not yet been established.

The overhaul of the immi-

She said clients from Amer

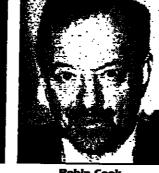
She said: "It's really absurd



'Mail' editor published letter under headline 'Civil War Plot By Socialists' Masters'

that J D (Don) Gregory, head of the Foreign Office's Northern Department, sold a copy to pay debts he had accumulated through a married woman, Am-

lieved she was his lover. The intelligence services made no efforts to authenticate the document when it arrived from their agent in Riga, but it was distributed to the Foreign Office, Scotland Yard and the War Office with a note: "The authenticity of the document is



Foreign Secretary ordered the inquiry and sanctioned use of security service files

Ms Bennett said yesterday: "I have my doubts about whether (Morton) thought it was genuine but he treated it as if it was."

Ms Bennett's report was commissioned by Robin Cook, inta Dyne. His colleagues bethe Foreign Secretary, after questions were asked in the Commons last year, prompted by a book by the espionage writer Nigel West.

Ms Bennett explained its appeal: "It's not quite sex, lies and videotape but it's certainly sex and spies. It's a fairly po-



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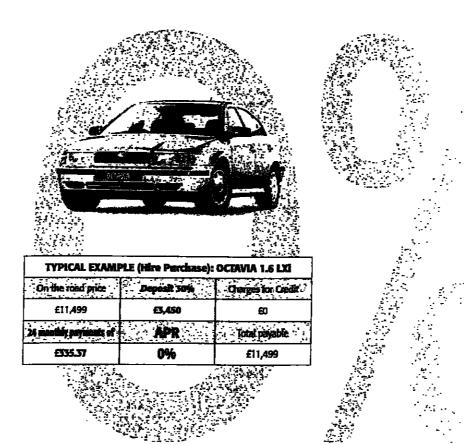
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ince, Brunswick Court, Yeornans Drive, Blakelands, Milton Keyees, AKK14 SLR. The typical

# One child in five suffers mental stress

By JEREMY LAURANCE

PRESSURES ON children to succeed and mollycoddling by parents who fear for their safety are turning out a young generation that is emotionally illiterate and at an increased risk of mental breakdown, a report claimed yesterday.

One in five people aged four to twenty is estimated to suffer from problems, ranging from bed-wetting to anorexia, which significantly disrupt their lives.

The toll of mental ill health has been rising in all developed countries since the Second World War and neglect of children's emotional needs in the modern world is to blame. according to the report, by the Mental Health Foundation.

In a three-year study, The Big Picture, published yesterday, which examined more than 1,000 pieces of evidence, the foundation concludes that children are failing to thrive emotionally are becoming less resilient and less able to cope with the ups and downs of life.

It says children are represented as "evil demons" or as "dolls and angels" but not as humans, and that an adult-centred society treats them as "designer accessories or pampered pets". The pressures on them to achieve are enormous but too little is done to help them to build the resilience they need to cope when things go wrong. "Huge sums [are invested] in our children's intellectual abil-



'Children must be allowed to try things and be free to experiment so that they develop their own abilities to solve problems'

ities and there can be no reason for not investing in their dren and the family the report mental health and emotional warns that they "still pussyfoot intelligence," the report says.

government initiatives on chilaround the fundamental fact tal and emotional health." Although welcoming recent that the root cause of so much

society as a whole is poor men-

dysfunction in individuals, in the foundation, said risk-taking families, in schools, and in by children was an essential over-regimented lives imposed June McKerrow, director of by worried parents had reduced

their opportunities to learn from their mistakes. plan and take control, they

"Children must be able to

and be free to experiment so abilities to solve problems.

that they develop their own "We know some things will

right and then they can choose where to place their energies." Ms McKerrow said many social problems, such as unemployment, were beyond the power of governments to solve and people had to be emotionally prepared to cope with the consequences by extending their personal resources and interests.

Schools played a key role but there was "huge concern" about the narrowness of the National Curriculum. For primary school children, playing with their peers was an important part of their development, but this is under threat, she said.

"Teachers say they have had to cut the playtime of five-yearolds by up to half and drop singing lessons in order to make more time for arithmetic. There is no time to build emotional intelligence - it is all focused on the three Rs."

By changing social attitudes to children, many of the risks to their mental health could be reduced. But for those children who succumbed to the pressures and showed signs of failing to progress at school or found it difficult to make friends, early intervention was needed in the form of treatment, counselling, peer support or specific initiatives such as anti-bullying programmes.

"A fundamental shift in society is needed to accept that 'mental' health can be a positive as well as a negative state."

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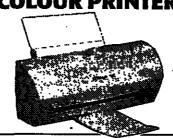
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# Women find home less satisfying

MORE WOMEN than ever be- By KATE WATSON-SMYTH fore have become increasingly disenchanted with the state of their family life, according to a new survey published yesterday.

In the survey, conducted by the monthly women's magazine Prima, seven in ten said that home life was less satisfying not have enough time to fulfil al tasks satisfactorily, while 31 per cent said the Government should help by providing statesponsored nurseries for working mothers. Some 80 per cent said tax relief was the best motive for marrying, and staying

married. The survey examined women's attitudes on a wide range of family issues. They were asked about the competing demands of children and work. single motherhood and the importance of marriage. There was strong support for marriage with 78 per cent describing it as vital for stable family life and 54 per cent saying di-

vorce should be made more dif-

ficult. Launching the survey, Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, said families were under more pressure than ever before. Cherie and I have always tried to make sure we have time for each other and the kids," he said. "We do live in a goldfish than ever before, blaming lack bowl, so it's all the more imof time and the cost of childcare. portant to keep your feet on the Forty-one per cent said they did ground and try to make life as normal as possible for our-

Tessa Jowell, the Public Health minister, said: "The survey has captured a very clear snapshot of attitudes to family life in Britain today - a strong vote of confidence goes to family life and the importance of marriage."

The report, based on 1,000 replies, was part of a campaign by Prima that is intended to investigate all aspects of family

life in Britain. The magazine said the survey had posed "fundamental questions which offered the women of Britain the opportunity to help the Government develop strategies that will shape family life in the future".

### Mobile phone failures exposed

By CHARLES ARTHUR Technology Editor

MOBILE PHONE companies' coverage often does not match the promises of their advertising, according to a study produced for the telecommunications watchdog Oftel.

Despite claims by the four main networks that they cover almost 100 per cent of the population, in practice making a phone call can be a frustrating experience with, for example, up to 25 per cent of calls being cut off during rail journeys for users of the Vodafone network Even in cities, users of One 2 One's service can find that only 91 per cent work, which means that almost one phone call in 10 may "drop out" mid-sentence. The best on both counts was Orange, where 97 per cent of city calls and 89 per cent of rail calls were successful.

Oftel commissioned the survey, from Freshfields Commuications, after the networks refused to offer their own independent figures that might help prospective users to decide which was the best network.

"There needs to be clarity so that people can compare the quality of service between netvorks to get the best deal," said Edmonds.

He will repeat the survey

SUCCESS RATE Orange Vodafone One to One 🕸 For rail journeys One to One 148/ Vodafone 73 15

ange, One 2 One, Cellnet and Vodafone - start offering such independent data themselves. The survey used comput-

erised equipment to try to make 90-second calls in three cities - London, Edinburgh, and Cardiff - and on rail lines between London, Edinburgh, Crewe and Cardiff.

The railway coverage was noticeably variable. "On the trains in rural areas, much lower call success rates were experienced, which, of course, will contribute significantly to customer dissatisfaction on those routes," the report noted.

The networks said that they are working on ways to offer

# al stress Minister



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OUP is owned by Oxford University. It makes about £6m for the university every year. The board of directors is composed of delegates from different faculties: literature, classics, history, chemistry, modern languages. The vicechancellor of the university, John Lucas, is chairman of the delegates. OUP's chief executive, Henry Reece, has the title of secretary to the

Kendrick.

last night on the 500-year-old

Oxford University Press (OUP), likening the dons who

head the venerable publishing

in support of Oxford Poets, or-

OUP to sell off its poetry list.

Alan Howarth, the Arts min-

house to "barbarians".

Mr Howarth, who used to be an English teacher at Westminster School and left the Conservative Party to join Labour during the Major government, told his audience last night "It may be said that it is not for the Government to tell OUP how to run its business ... But is this just a business decision? Is OUP just a business? Is there no public interest in their decision to discontinue publishing con-

temporary poetry? OUP is not merely a business. It is a department of the University of Oxford and has

A GOVERNMENT minister By DAVID LISTER made an astonishing attack Arts News Editor

attacks

dons as

charitable status. It is part of a great university, which the Government supports financially and which exists to develop and transmit our ister, was speaking at a reading intellectual culture."

He noted that OUP reganised by the university's mained proud to publish the English faculty. He urged dons Oxford English Dictionary. to undo the recent decision by but declared "Poets, certainly no less than lexicographers, Among the 26 poets being are shapers of the English

sold off are some of the bestlanguage.
"If it is appropriate for the known contemporary writers in Britain. They include Fleur OUP to subsidise the dictio-Adcock, Peter Porter, Thomas nary, is it not equally appro-Kinsella, Michael Donaghy. priate to subsidise the poetry list - and at a small fraction of D J Enright, Alice Oswald, Jo Shapcott and Jamie Mcthe cost?"

> Continuing his attack, Mr Howarth deplored "the spectacle of the Press touting its poetry list for sale".

> He said: "Has OUP not noticed that in this day and age we have moved on from the heresy that everything should be susceptible to market forces, that everything should be for sale? "It is a perennial complaint

by the English faculty that the barbarians are at the gate. Indeed they always are. But we don't expect the gatekeepers themselves, the custodians, to be barbarians. Nor, if they will be true to themselves and their tradition, are they.

"I very much hope that the delegates, having listened, will undo this decision."

Ruth Padel, the poet and former Oxford don who has campaigned for the OUP decision to be reversed, welcomed the minister's support.

She added: "The delegates could still reverse this decision by resigning in a bunch unless heads roll among the manage-



Brenda Portman walks her boxer, Frisbee, at Durley Chine, Bournemouth, which the Tidy Britain Group rates among the country's top 14 beaches

# Seaside resorts let down by their loos



MANY SEASIDE resorts are let BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY down by lousy loos, according to the Tidy Britain Group. A quarter of beach lavatories are badly maintained or dirty, the charity found in a survey of 153 beaches in England, Wales and Scotland last summer.

Since the group's previous survey in 1996, the average score for facilities has dropped by 8 per cent, and the average score for beach cleanliness has dropped by 3 per cent.

But beach access, water safety and information provision have improved, and threequarters of beaches are well-managed overall, compared with 65 per cent in 1996.

The cleanest beaches were in East Anglia, the survey an issue on our beaches. found, while beach and water-

**Environment Correspondent** 

safety were highest in the North-east. The best dog control policies were on the east coast, and the best facilities and accessibility and the a day at the seaside more clearest information are to be found in the South-east and South-west.

Six out of the worst eight beaches overall are in Scotland. Professor Graham Ashworth, the Tidy Britain Group's director-general, said: "It is a great shame that the UK's resorts are being let down by the poor state of their toilets. It is also of great concern that litter is, once more, becoming

that beach managers have directive, and so were named acted on the advice we gave in 1996 to improve their signage beaches in Britain. and information provision. This They are: Barmouth. gives me hope that resorts will Blackpeol Sands in Devon. take heed of this call to tackle

enjoyable for their visitors." Beaches were assessed on criteria such as access, cleanliness, water safety, dog control, facilities and amenities, maintenance and information - but

their toilets and therefore make

not water quality. They were not ranked in an individual league table but graded in bands. The group put 32 in the top band, Grade A. Of these, 14 beaches possess the top water quality according to the measurement criteria used by the EU's bathing water Norfolk

the Tidy Britain Group's best

Bournemouth Durley Chine. Bournemouth Fisherman's Walk. Cromer. Eastbourne. Herne Bay, Littlehampton, Poole Sandbanks, Shanklin, Sheerness Beach Street, West Wittering, Weymouth Central and Woolacombe.

The eight beaches placed in the bottom band, Grade D. were: Aberdeen, Ardrossan Saltcoats, Benilech, Elie. Fraserbugh, Hemsby, Largs, Portobello and Prestwick. All are in Scotland apart from Benllech, which is in Anglesey, and Hemsby, which is in

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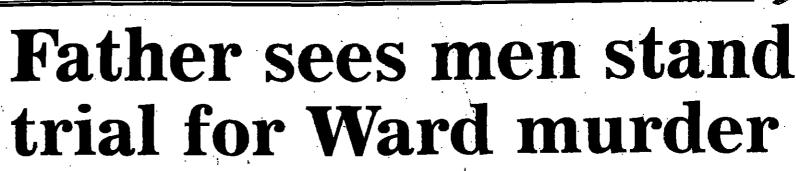
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in Nairobi

AFTER 11 YEARS of extraordinary perseverance, John Ward will see the trial of his daughter's alleged murderers open in the Nairobi High Court today. "I am content because everything has been done now that could be done, and the stage is set for a fair and open trial," Mr

Ward said of the event marking

the end of an affair that has

come to dominate his life.

Two men have been accused of the murder of Julie Ward, found in the Masai Mara Game Park, Kenya, in September 1988. Simon Ole Makallah, arrested last year, the former Asuccessful businessman, who head warden at the reserve, has reckons to have spent more always been one of John Ward's than £1m on the case, he exchief suspects because of the ease with which he led Mr the state of the small, pourly fur-Ward's search party to Julie's mished rooms, but said he abandoned Jeep, and then later hoped the privacy they affordto her remains. David Kandu- ed would encourage his wife, la Nchoka, arrested in January, Jan, to come from Suffolk for was a clerk at Sands River the trial. "I'm very tired and Camp in the Masai Mara, and one of the last to see her alive. He forged her signature on his could have been solved much books, claiming she left the park in a hurry.

The trial starting today is likely to be temporarily ad-role John Ward has taken in the journed so that the two cases can be joined together.



whose burnt remains were Simon Ole Makallah, (left) David Kandula Nchoka and John Ward

Mr Ward has rented an After initially exposing incom- take on a case that it longed to apartment near the city centre. petence and a string of cover- drop. With only a little irony, he report that was altered to claim waru nas explored the under-belly of government, politics and justice in a country trate status eventual. pressed some unease about him becoming an official memweary of it all," he said. Attorney General.

He has conducted interro-He believes the murder gations, pursued leads, exposed "serial ligrs", has laid to
rest conspirate theories put

makes who tries to cover up, integrity of a good out tashioned" police team, the judge
said. He says this compromise
was crucial for the success of

He hopes for a conviction. earlier "if our little team had been sent down to the Masai about by members of Kenya's the investigation. Mara". The highly personal opposition parties, and has investigation is something the forced the country's inefficient and corrupt justice system to court will have to consider.



ups - including a pathologist's occasionally refers to himself as "PC Ward".

Mr Ward has explored the had to make difficult decisions ber of a special new police to survive the course. "I had to team set up by the Kenyan make it clear that I was interested in the actual murder, not in those who tried to cover up;

> Murder - and cover-up has already been proved in the trial of two innocent rangers in be happy with that, too.

entertaining Olympic officials in

the committee in 1991, most of

it in the three months leading

up to the final vote in Birm-

The money was spent on

first-class air fares and a week

of hotel accommodation for the

Japanese delegates. Five million

yen went on a private train

chartered to take the IOC pres-

ident, Juan Antonio Samaranch,

from Tokyo to Nagano one

month before the city's victory.

cost, the entertaining violated IOC rules that ban bidding or-

ganisations from holding par-

ties during Olympic meetings.

ted there may have been "ex-

esses" during the city's bid. Mr Tsukada's has always

claimed that the accounts of the

bid were burnt after the committee wound up its business in

Last week the Nagano mayor, Tasuku Tsukada, admit-

Apart from its excessive

ingham in June.

Jananese newspapers.

Geisha girls

wooed IOC

in Britain

marked that it was ominous that it took a foreigner "to stir the Kenya police out of its lethargy" and called a cover-up by the police a "blatant abuse of the institutions of justice". The judge said many questions were left unanswered regarding the role of Simon Makallah and David Nchoka - now in the

The issue now is whether 11 years on there is sufficient evidence to convict the men. DNA samples tested in Britain and America have come to nothing, including strands of blond hair. which turned out not to be Julie's. Mr Ward took a last sample to the US just before Christmas, but says he expects

"We're proving a negative and cutting off any last op-tion," he said. Of about 40 witnesses on call, six are expected to come from Britain.

While insisting the case has "put Kenyan justice on trial", Mr Ward says he has full confidence, this time round, in the integrity of "a good old fash-

But it may well be that real justice would have to be an acquittal. Mr Ward says he would

**BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL STORES** 



Julie Ward: A second murder trial starts today 11 years after she died

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channels filmed the debate held in the National Assembly, which formed part of celebra-tions to mark the 70th birthday of the boy reporter created by Belgian Georges Remi under

the pen name of Herge.
Closely watched by the Belgian ambassador and Herge's widow, deputies argued heatedly for two hours without reaching firm conclusions.

Some argued that Tintin was right-wing at least in his first apearance, when he visited the Soviet Union in a book that seemed crudely anti-Commu-nist. They said he was still

A JAPANESE delegation from By RICHARD LLOYD PARRY Nagano spent 240m yen (£1m) in Tokyo

Birmingham, days before it 1992. Yesterday's revelations was chosen to host last year's will fuel rumours in Nagano Winter Olympics, according to that some of the documents may still be hidden somewhere.

The expenses covered the Last month a member of Mr posts of almost 196 visitors Tsukada's city assembly told in the interest of almost 196 visitors. Tsukada's city assembly told in the interest of almost 196 visitors. wearing female attendants who nomical" sums had been spent entertained members of the on the bid and that bribes had International Olympic Com- been paid to IOC members in mittee in 1991 during five days cash and gifts. He also said that parties and receptions at as recently as 14 January Highbury House, the former mayor was intending to burn

home of Neville Chamberlain. further documents. A report in yesterday's This is denied by Mr Tsuka-Mainichi newspaper, based on da and supporters of the mayor notes said to have been leaked who were present at the meeting, and no specific allegations by a former member of the bid of bribery have been proved. committee, contradicts claims by Nagano officials that they But there is growing concern burnt all the documents relatabout the extravagant hospitality with which visiting IOC ing to the city's successful bid... It says that Y740m was spent by delegates were entertained.

Sixty-two committee members, many of them accompanied by their families, were flown to Japan and whisked around the country at a cost of Y2m-Y3m each. They were entertained by geisha, transported in chartered helicopters and taken on sightseeing tours of the ancient city of Kyoto at the expense of the Nagano bidding committee, which was 40

per cent public funded. Mr Tsukada hinted last month that Nagano was put under pressure to provide such luxuries. "At the time, we were in a position of getting them to choose us, so it was difficult to refuse the demands of the IOC

Mystery surrounds a handmade Japanese sword, which Nagano officials say they gave to Mr Samaranch. The IOC says it has no record of the gift.

### Tintin's politics confuses French

FRENCH MPs held a 90-minute debate yesterday on whether the cartoon hero Tintin was right-wing or left-wing. At least 16 foreign television

right-wing when he visited the Congo and mocked Africans. But he had turned into a left-World and an ally of oppressed nations by the time he travelled to South America in Tintin in Picaro Country and China in The Blue Lotus.

Yann Galut, a member of the French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin's Socialist Party praised Tintin's policy on drugs, but was careful to distance himself from the young scribe's policy on Africa, which he described as paternalistic".

Tintin remains hugely pop ular in France. The country former leader, General De Gaulle, once grumbled that "deep down, my only interna-tional rival is Tintin". (Reuters)



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# UN orders all Britons and Americans out of Iraq

THE UNITED Nations revealed last night that it has ordered all American and British nationals working for it in Iraq to leave the country as soon as sible because of fears for their safety.

The move further illustrates the depth of distrust between the UN and the leadership in Baghdad following the bombing of Iraq by the US and Britain in December and the continuing pounding of Iraqi defence sites

BY DAVID USBORNE in New York in the northern and southern

"no-fly" zones.
Fred Eckhard, UN spokes
man, said the decision had been taken yesterday following "specific threats" to nationals of the two countries working for the UN's humanitarian programme in Iraq. He said that at least two US citizens were immediately involved. While there are about

10 British UN officials assigned to the programme, all of them were already outside Iraq last night on leave, an official said.

The UN's decision, taken by Benon Sevan, the chief of the humanitarian affairs division, stems from a letter sent by the Traci leadership to New York on 4 January saying that the safe-ty of British and American officials working in the country could no longer be guaranteed. Officially, the UN responded

by telling Iraq that it had no right to dictate the composition of UN icans that was implied in the letter the composition of UN icans that was implied in the letter that they in the face of Iraqi belligerence, teams working there. The British Government quickly expressed alarm to the UN, however, and asked Mr Sevan to

pond quickly to the letter. Officials last night said that Mr Sevan, assisted by the UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, have attempted behind-thescenes diplomacy with Baghdad to persuade it to withdraw the threat to the Britons and Amer-

ter and to guarantee that they would be protected. Yesterday's decision signalled, however, that Iraq re-

fused to bend. There are other Britons working in the country for nonovernmental organisations not formally linked to the UN. Most of those are in the northern Kurdish region, where Baghdad has limited control. While the UN decision could

it is unlikely to be questioned by London or Washington. The final decision on the welfare of UN personnel, regardless of nationality, rests with Mr Sevan

and the Secretary General. Iraq, meanwhile, continues to refuse to allow the re-entry into its country of the weapons inctors working for Unscom, the UN body charged with hunt-

ing down its weapons of mass

destruction. Under UN resolutions, the Security Council cannot lift sanctions against Iraq until Unscom has certified that it is free of all such weapons. by missiles from allied jets over "All United States and Unitthe no-fly zones in the last few ed Kingdom nationals working

these two nationalities so it was

weeks than during all of the fourfor the United Nations should day Cruise missile bombardleave the country," Mr Eckhard ment of last December. said making the announcement. Iraq yesterday began moving some of its anti-aircraft sys-Insisting that the final decision rested with Mr Sevan, he added: tems out of the no-fly zones to central Iraq to protect them from attack "The specific threats were to

while that more Iraci defence in-

stallations have been destroyed

# Clinton called \* Monica 'stalker'

REPUBLICANS AND Democ- By MARY DEJEVSKY rats were preparing to rejoin battle in the US Senate today armed with three days of witness testimony that appeared to have advanced the case against President Clinton not a whit. With the public clamouring for an end to the impeachment trial, according to a New York Times poll, and Republicans undecided about how to proceed, the stage was set for more bickering before any conclusion is reached.

Yesterday's witness, the third and last, was Sidney Blumenthal, known as the White House spinmeister and a friend of Hillary Clinton. A journalist for The Washington Post and The New Yorker before joining the White House, he was expected to be questioned about a conversation in which Mr Clinton reportedly described Ms Lewinsky as a stalker who

had "come on to" him. The purpose of this line of questioning was to establish getting facts wrong. whether Mr Clinton had expected, or perhaps instructed, Mr Blumenthal to disseminate negative information about Ms Lewinsky after news of their affair broke. As Ms Lewinsky had by then been called as a witness în Paula Jones's sexual harassment suit against the President and Mr Blumenthal could expect to be a witness in the Lewinsky investigation, such a move could amount to obstructing the course of justice

and tampering with witnesses. He was questioned in the in Washington

at the top of the Capitol where Mr Clinton's friend Vernon Jordan had been the previous day. His interrogator was James Rogan, a California Republican who was one of the most aggressive members of the House Judiciary Committee in last year's impeachment hearings. He is one of 13 House Re-

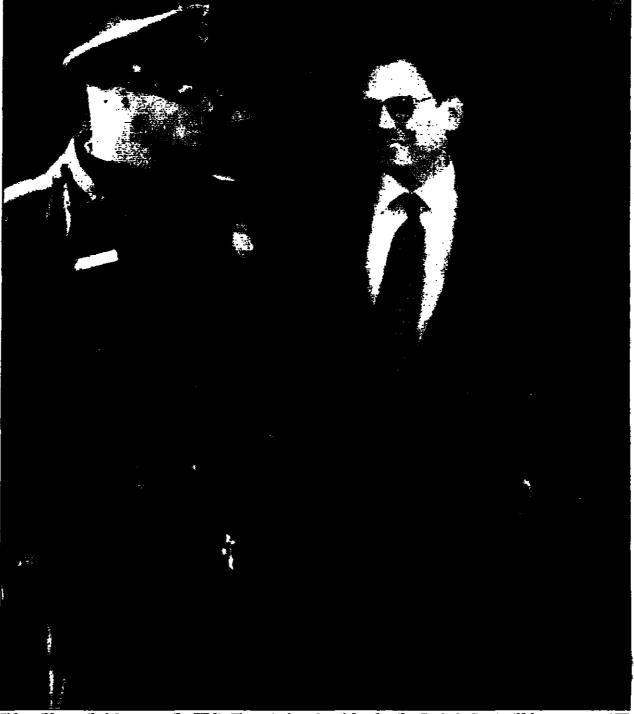
nublicans selected to present the prosecution's case in the Senate. Mr Jordan was questioned

by the milder-mannered Asa Hutchinson, of Arkansas, and the prosecutor chosen to question Monica Lewinsky on Monday was the most homely of all, Ed Bryant, from Tennessee. His performance was criti-

cised yesterday by some senators who had seen the videotaped interview of Ms Lewinsky's testimony, who accused him of hesitancy and

Although prosecutors had hoped one or all their chosen witnesses would add information to earlier evidence that strengthened the case against Mr Clinton, the information seeping out of the Senate, whose members are sworn to secrecy about the testimony, indicated that only the barest details had been added.

Ms Lewinsky was said to have stuck to her original version, while impressing senators as highly credible. According to Senator Larry Craig of Idaho.



Sidney Blumenthal, known as the White House 'spinmeister', leaving the Capitol after testifying

point in time had very strong feelings for the President," he

Mr Jordan was said to have added only two details to his earlier evidence, acknowledging, for instance, specific phone calls and a breakfast with Ms Lewinsky for which the prosesame secure committee room a Republican, she had mixed cutors had obtained written

obvious this is a lady who at one have "forgotten" key details and specifically denied advising Ms Lewinsky to destroy draft love letters to the President.

The first clashes today are likely to centre on whether the witness testimony, which was videotaped, should be made public: Republicans tend to say that it should; Democrats not.

feelings about Mr Clinton. "It's records. But he continued to Tom Daschle, said yesterday is still to prevent the appearthat it should be all or nothing. "If you are going to air a deposition, you'd better air the full thing," he told reporters.

But his preference was for nothing. "The public," he said, alluding to polls, "is saying over and over ... that they want this trial to end."

The chief concern of De-The Senate Minority Leader, mocrats, with the White House,

# US to join **Nato force** in Kosovo

AS PRESSURE intensified on BY RUPERT CORNWELL Yugoslavia to send delegates to the Kosovo peace talks, which are due to start near Paris on Saturday, Nato countries were yesterday working out details of a peace-keeping force, of between 20,000 and 30,000 men,

cant, US contingent. Under plans being finalised by European and American officials, Britain would make the largest single contribution, of 8,000 men, to the force which would only be deployed if ethnic Albanians and Serbs reach a

including a small, but signifi-

settlement at Rambovillet. France is understood to be offering up to 6,000 troops, Germany 3,000 and Russia, the Netherlands and the Nordic countries a further 3,000 between them.

The crux however is the US contribution, controversial in Congress but seen as crucial for the credibility of the peacekeeping operation and as a guarantee that Washington was in for the long baul in ensuring that the autonomy deal worked.

William Cohen, the US Defense Secretary, assured the Senate Armed Services Committee that a "relatively small" US ground force could be sent, assuming a deal is struck in Rambouillet. General Henry Shelton, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, suggested a contingent of 2,000 to 4,000

American troops. Mr Cohen was speaking a day after the CIA director, George Tenet, warned that even if an agreement was reached, Nato ground troops would be needed to stave off the risk of a wider war in the spring.

As have his opposite numbers in London and Paris, the Defense Secretary flatly opposed an invasion of Kosovo by Nato to impose a peace in what planners jargon calls a "non-permissive environment".

Last night, plans were going

ahead for the Rambouillet con-

ference to start as scheduled. under the joint chairmanship of Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and the French Foreign Minister, Hubert Vedrine. After the decisions of the political and military repre-

sentatives of the Kosovo Alban-

ians to attend, only the assent of the Serbian and Yugoslav governments is lacking. Although President Slobodan Milosevic has given conflicting signals, the surprisingly thorough and even-handed coverage of the Contact Group proposals in the Belgrade press

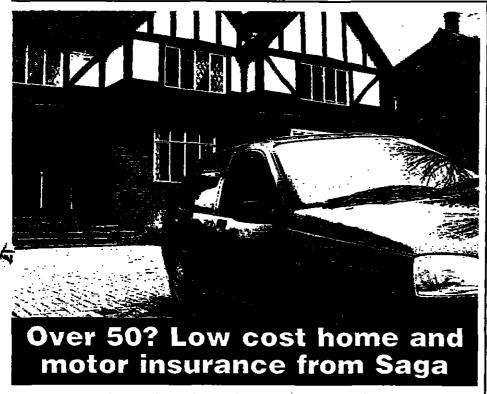
makes Western officials fairly confident that, after some suitable suspense, he will agree to send delegations. "They ran our statement in full. The only thing they changed was that they had been 'invited,' not 'summoned' to the conference," one Western diolomat said

It is most unlikely that Mr Milosevic, who was again warned explicitly by Washington that he faced Nato airstrikes if he did not comply, will attend in person.

The Serbian delegation could be headed by Milan Milutinovic, Serbia's President, while the federal Yugoslav team could be led by Mr Milosevic's deputy, Nikola Sainovic.

The draft peace plan, in which only minor changes will he permitted during the negotiations, will turn Kosovo into something approaching a protectorate. The OSCE monitoring mission would have wide powers and will supervise elections within nine months.

Though Kosovo will not be granted full independence, the Serbian government will lose almost all its authority over the province, which will have its own assembly and police force. The agreement runs for an interim period of three years. after which the final status of Kosovo will be determined.



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### Fur flies over **Beverly Hills** coat warning

TRYING TO tell the pampered citizens of Beverly Hills not to wear fur coats is like trying to tell Romans not to eat pasta. But that does not mean, in this land of limitless possibility, that someone isn't going to try.

Thus it was that a group called Beverly Hills Consumers for Informed Choices interrupted a city council meeting on Tuesday night with a demand that all furs sold there should carry a warning tag detailing the gruesome way in which coats make their way from the backs of mink to the racks of fashion boutiques.

Since the consumer group had collected the signatures of 3,300 registered voters – about 10 per cent of the Beverly Hills population - the council had no choice but to put the issue to the people in a special ballot to be held on 11 May. If passed, the furriers of Beverly Hills will have to attach the following note to every coat they sell:

"Consumer notice: This product is made with fur from animals that may have been killed by electrocution, gassing, neck breaking, poisoning, club-bing, stomping or drowning and may have been trapped in steel-jaw, leg-hold traps."

Naturally, the shop-owners of Rodeo Drive and the other prestigious addresses of Beverly Hills are getting a little hot under their pelt and sable collars. "This is just one more attempt by the extreme animal activists to generate publicity to

hurt the fur industry," said Douglas Fine, manager of Somper Furs on Canon Drive.

The consumer group has more than righteous rage up its sleeve, though it also has a surreptitiously recorded videotape in which several Beverly Hills shop assistants are caught telling customers, misleadingly, that the furs' original, animal owners were killed by humane means such as lethal injection.

"The label lists a variety of methods by which the animals may or may not have been put down," said Teresa Platt, executive director of Fur Commission USA, which represents fur farmers. "Imagine if such a label were required for meat or medicine - the list is endless."

Alarming warnings are nothing new in southern California. however. Visitors to Beverty Hills' Four Seasons Hotel are confronted with this startling announcement at the front entrance: "Warning: this area contains toxic materials known to the state of California to cause birth defects, cancer and other reproductive harm."

Although left unexplained. this notice - imposed on all pubhe buildings by a recent state wide ballot - refers to the fact that smoking is permitted inside. Next to cancer and deformed babies, who can object to the mention of a little animal stomping?

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ance of "live" witnesses before

the Senate, though the tide ap-

peared to be turning in their

favour. While Republican

House prosecutors said they

would continue to press for

"live" witnesses. Mr Hutchin-

son conceded: "I think the Sen-

ators are going to be satisfied

with the videotapes. It's going

to be tough to make that case."



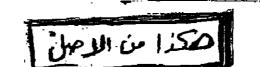


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### THE INDEPENDENT \* \* \* Thursday 4 February 1999

# Car chief shot dead in Johannesburg

THE HEAD of operations for By ALEX DUVAL SMITH Daewoo, the South Korean car giant, was shot dead in a Jo hannesburg suburb yesterday in the latest blow to South Africa's attempts to attract for-

eign investment and tourism. Yong Koo Kwon, 50, president of Daewoo Motor South Africa, was killed in a pre-dawn attack that police described as a possible car-jacking attempt. They said, however, that it could have been a contract murder. "We are worried about the

crime situation in South Africa,"

in Johannesburg

said a spokesman at the South Korean embassy in Pretoria. "This murder can affect the business community."

Car-jackings in South Africa, already at epidemic levels, increased by almost 9 per cent last year. But Perumal Naidoo, head of the police anticar-jacking unit, said the killing did not seem to be an ordinary attempted theft and could have been an assassination. Others

spendated that the killer or killers fled when the car rolled down the driveway and the

electric gates close South Africa's Safety and Security Minister, Sydney Mufamadi, said everything would be done to hunt down the killers. "I was shocked when I was informed of the fatal shooting. On behalf of the South African government, I would like to express our sincere condolences and sympathies to Mr Yong's family, colleagues and friends.

Mr Yong had been at a farewell dinner for the Korean ambassador on Tuesday night, leaving at around 10pm (20.00 GMT). He was found at 3am. Friends said he had been particularly happy at the dinner because he had just received news that one of his sons had gained admission to a South Ko-

rean university. Richard Newby, managing director of Daewoo Electronics South Africa, a unit of Daewoo Corp South Africa, said Mr Yong's killer or killers did not

appear to have stolen anything: "His cellphone and wallet were still there."

A representative at the South Korean trade centre in Johannesburg said the cir-cumstances of the killing were doubly mysterious because Mr Yong had driven his car through the gates into the grounds of the house before he was shot.

"We are sure it was not just a simple car hijacking. Surely it's a kind of assassination, but I don't know why he

Johannesburg is South Africa's commercial nerve centre, but it also has a reputation as the world's murder capital. Many wealthy people employ armed guards and live in villas bristling with alarms and ringed with electrified fencing. Motorists run the daily risk of

being shot for their cars by

was killed," said a spokesman.

young men wielding guns. Daewoo's general manager, Pieter Coetzee, said Mr Yong was well-liked and had no known enemies. The killing

"did not send out a message of confidence", he said. C Y Kim. a counsellor at the South Korean embassy, said the attack could damage South Korean investment in the country.

"Without security we cannot do anything," he said. Daewoo has been operating in South Africa for 30 months.

and accounts through its imports for 3.5 per cent of the car market. It reported a loss in the first six months of last year of \$7m (£4m) on sales of \$15m. A South Korean trade official

# Somalia's new terror is drought

NOBODY IS left in the village BY LUCY HANNAN of Matano. southern Somalia. The absolute stillness of 200 abandoned homes is arresting. Some doors swing open, offering evidence of flight. Clothes, pots, beds and water carriers left behind speak of a compre-

hensive and fearful exodus. But the devil that stalks this village, and hundreds of others. is not fighting and social chaos; it is drought. Water catchment holes are bone-dry, food stores are empty and the rain-fed fields of sorghum are nothing more than dry stalks.

"Migration is the very last option." says Roger Carter, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (Unicef) officer in Bardera, capital of Gedo region. "If they don't get more help now, there'll be a major tragedy."

Tens of thousands of people in the southern regions of Bay, Bakol and Gedo are fleeing to towns in search of help. They are threatened by one of the most devastating droughts on record - and by the fact that aid agencies are reluctant to help.

"In terms of assistance, Somalia is seen as having 'orig-inal sin'," says Lyn Geldof, information officer for Unicef. referring to the disastrous

in Bardera, southern Somalia

international humanitarian and military intervention in 1992 by the United States and the UN. which resulted in the killings of expatriate aid workers, soldiers and journalists.

Last month, Gianfranco Rotigliano, Unicef's Somalia representative, visited donors in Europe to sound the alarm on the possibility of a full-scale famine, but says he was sent away "with a pat on the head". He says: "I felt stupid."

Drought has followed hard on the heels of massive flooding last November, which destroyed houses and farms, killed livestock and brought disease. Now, with a devastated infrastructure and nine years without a central authority, Somalia has nothing in reserve.

But trying to prevent yet another emergency is seen as "crying wolf", complain aid workers, and it is still likely that money will come along only with the images of death.

Bringing in international assistance is seen as "opening a can of worms", says one food officer. The country is run by a web of rival clans, and to



Families who have abandoned their villages because of drought wait at Bardera, hoping for food

would trigger a nightmare of demands and negotiations.

Now, a little assistance is being overseen by a few international and local staff in Bardera, Unicef distributes every two weeks bags of "Su-

eats it. The condition of many children deteriorates.

Present help "barely meets 10 per cent of the needs", says Abdinasir Zobe, the local food security officer of the UN's World Food Programme, Even permix" - dry cereal - meant the arrival this week of one for children under five. Without truck carrying more supplies is introduce food aid for any group any other rations, everyone not all good news; coming from has one cup of sweet tea a day.

the Kenyan border, the rest of The family walked for seven the convoy had been delayed by hungry villagers en route.

Aden Mohamed, 30, with a family of five, admits he is surviving on Supermix. "We know it is for the children but we have nothing else." When the rations run out, the family

disaster are already evident: fighting in the camps between days to get to Bardera, leaving

behind most of their belongings. Bardera has become a safe haven, says Roger Carter, a Unicef officer. Local radio stations act as a telephone and banking system. Satellite dishes provide evening entertainment. But the stresses of

George Mulala/Reuters

townsfolk and villagers; rising prices in the markets; the daily struggle to find firewood and shelter as more people arrive. "It's like crossing an invisible line," says Ms Geldof. "One day it's bearable, the next day

said his country's investment in South Africa was currently worth about \$80m a year. mainly in the electronics, motor and heavy industry sectors.

About 700 South Koreans are currently resident in South

Mr Yong's killing is the sec-ond such incident involving a senior foreign businessman stationed in the country. In August 1996. Erich Elimer, the German finance manager of the AEG Group, was murdered in an attempted car-jacking.

### Jail time cut for Arabs' killers

By PATRICK COCKBURN in Jerusalem

IN A MOVE that is likely to anger Palestinians, Israel has commuted the sentences of

several Jews who killed Arabs. The decision is particularly provocative after Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, last year refused to release Palestinian prisoners who, he said, "had blood on

their hands". Among those benefiting from the decision are Ami Popper, who killed seven Palestinian labourers in 1990 and will see his sentence reduced from 17 life terms to 40 years. Nehemia Mishbaum, who was given a 17-year term for throwing a grenade into a market in 1992, killing a Palestinian, will now serve five-and-

Tsahi Hanegbi, the Justice Minister, said Israel had released many Palestinian prisoners under the Oslo accords. He said: "I felt we must make a similar gesture with regard to Jewish prisoners."

"It is a provocative move," said Ahmed Abdel-Rahman, the secretary-general of the Palestinian cabinet. "Israel should have released those who were mentioned in the peace accords instead of freeing Jews who killed Palestinians in cold blood."

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"Il the contracting and Armoni tracks 

# nesbur Israelis to the left, Hizbollah in for the kill

**FRONTLINE** SOUTHERN LEBANON

NOT LONG after the Gurkhas moved into Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon as part of the UN's 20-year-old peacekeeping force, a couple of Israeli-paid Lebanese militiamen tried to bring their guns into the little smuggling village of Shebaa.

THE INDEPENDENT

Leave your weapons with us, said the Gurkhas. A few hours later, another group of gunmen stopped a patrol of Indian troops who were escorting their ambassador.

Hand over your rifles, the militiamen said, until we get ours back. The soldiers refused. The 2nd Battalion, IV Ghurka Rifles, they explained, never - ever - hand their guns to anyone.

The boys from Israel's South Lebanon Army could have saved themselves a confrontation by reading through the regiment's official history. In the officers' mess, a noticeboard records their honours with merciless precision: Afghanistan 1897-98, 1914-15, 1934-37, 1939; North West Frontier Province: 1895, 1923-25, 1931, 1937, 1938, 1939-40, Baghdad and Kut al-Amara 1916, Greece 1918, Turkey 1917-19, Syria, 1941, Egypt and Libya 1942, Italy 1944-45.

"We take our regiment's history very seriously," Colonel Guru Batabyal says unnecessarily. Indeed they do; the Gurkhas have lugged their regimental silver all the way from India to the mess above the tiny village of Ebl es-Sagi in southern Lebanon.

They are, after all, in a



the left of them, Israelis to the right of them - in fact Israelis all round them, with visiting Hizboliah trying to kill the Is-raelis-the Gurkhas are the only UN battalion operating entirely within the Israeli occupation zone. And if the Israelis one day decide to leave, the Hizbollah and their chums will have some scores to settle with the militiamen in the area. It will then need a tough bunch of soldiers to keep the peace - which may be why the Gurkhas are here.

Col Batabyal is a canny man. His advance party toured the area, noted that Lebanese women prefer female doctors. that the farm animals were often sick and that the children liked music. So out came two women medical officers from the Indian army, a military vet (treatment free of charge) and a standing invitation to march their Gurkha pipers through the local schools. "Every soldier. Mr Fisk, must be made to understand that our role is peacekeeping, not peaceenforcing," the colonel says.

smile, be polite and be firm and give old ladies and school buses the right of way because that is our Indian tradition."

A half hour in the colonel's office is a mixture of literary quotation and military wisdom. The Indians are full-time professional soldiers and officer selection will accept only 300 out of every 120,000 applicants. Tennyson is quoted with approval. "Their's not to reason why, Their's but to do and die," the colonel says rather grandly. Tell that to the Highollah, I say to myself. But he means every word of it.

The IV Gurkhas, still incredibly - calls itself the "Prince of Wales' Own". Which given the departure of the British in 1948 - seemed to me to be taking things a bit too far.

The colonel, whose eyes be-came a good deal harder the more they peered at you, read my thoughts. "You cannot live on past glory alone, otherwise you will be bankrupt," he said. "You can take a small loan on the past - but you can't live on it for ever."

The 617 Gurkha and Indian troops - who include Hindus, Christians and Muslims - had their first taste of local savagery on Christmas Day when a pro-Israeli militiaman called Ghassan Daher was shot dead outside his house in the frozen heights of Shebaa. For once, it wasn't a Hizbollah job.

Though he was an intelligence officer, Daher's real sin was that he knew the identity of a man who'd killed Ismael Hazira, a smuggler shot dead



Israelis "invited" some of the locals to visit their intelligence officers in a town outside the UN zone - the Gurkhas couldn't prevent them - and two young men allegedly con-

fessed to the killing. For Major Rahul Sherma, it was an unusual incident. He checks the smugglers out of Shebaa each day their mules loaded with Marlboro cigarettes for Syria, seven boxes to near the Syrian border. Daher a mule, the men returning

money, mobile phones and guns - the latter left at a post provided by the Gurkhas. Instead of a draughty UN

hut, they provided The Independent with a suite of three rooms and a Gurkha who would arrive every 10 minutes, snap to attention, then produce a teapot of polished silver coffee cups and sugarcoated biscuits. By his third visit, Mr Fisk was beginning to feel like Captain Fisk and when

the colonel's ADC - arrived with superbly hand-written invitations (emblazoned with cross-Kukri insignia) to drinks and dinner in the officers' mess, it was not difficult to imagine how Capt Fisk might become - by morning, of

South East Frontier Province. Malcolm Muggeridge once reflected that the only Englishmen left are the Indians. He should have watched the offi-

course - Viceroy of Lebanon's

cers at dinner in their smartly pressed suits and regimental ties and the female doctor in a sari, while The Independent's man in Lebanon arrived - led by Gurkha pipers - in his tra-ditional uniform of scuffed brown shoes, faded blue corduroys and old green pullover.

"Only we have to wear the lounge suits," Capt Sherma confided gently. "You are the guest." Talk about the End of

ROBERT FISK

### Bissau hit by rebel attack

BY ALEX DUVAL SMITH in Johannesburg

DIPLOMATS WERE trying to broker a ceasefire yesterday between the Guinea-Bissau army and the democratically elected government of the West African country, after fighting returned

to the capital, Bissau. The interim Prime Minister, Francisco Fadul, said yesterday that fighting had increased overnight between Senegalese troops supporting President Joao Bernardo Vieira and the

army, which opposes his rule. There is a lot of automatic weapon fire and a lot of heavy shelling." Mr Fadul said. He added that the foreign and defence ministers of Togo were expected in Bissau yesterday to broker talks. The ambassadors of Portugal, France and Sweden are also involved in the diplomatic efforts, he said.

A French Navy ship, Siroco, is off the coast of Bissau, where it is attempting to land 300 West African peace-keeping reinforcements from Benin and

On Tuesday it was reported to have shelled rebel positions but the French ambassador to Bissau, François Chapellet, denied the claim. Earlier this week there were reports that at least 30 people had died in Bissau over the weekend, with more than 200 casualties admitted to hospital. Many people have reportedly sought shelter in foreign embassies.

The peacekeepers are due to be deployed as part of a plan brokered by the 16-nation Economic Community of West African States and the former colonial power. Portugal.

The policy, agreed last November, envisaged presidential elections next month but did not include plans for disarming the rebel army.

The rebellion, which began last June and is supported by guerrillas from neighbouring Senegal, has displaced half the country's one million people.

# **ENDENT** 1 OFFER

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# BUSINESS

### **BRIEFING**

Wolves confident of Marston win WOLVERHAMPTON & DUDLEY, the regional brewer, last night appeared confident of winning control of rival Marston Thompson & Evershed as earlier indications

suggested that at least one large shareholder had accepted its £288m offer. Sources close to W&D said their offer, which closes this afternoon, had been well received and a number of City analysts were advising clients to vote for it.

One shareholder in Marston, which launched an unprecedented £317m bid for W&D, was understood to

have accepted the offer Marston, the brewer of Pedigree bitter, said the result was too close to call because several investors were still undecided.

### Water chiefs fear tougher price cap



WATER COMPANY chiefs are growing increasingly concerned that the industry regulator will impose an even tougher price cap on them than expected, reducing their profits by a further £250m a year. They fear that when Ian

Byatt of Ofwat (pictured) publishes his final price controls this summer, he will limit the water industry's return on capita

to as little as 4 per cent. This would reduce the average household bill by a further £8.50 on top of the £40 cut Mr Byatt already envisages. But it would cost the industry between £200m and £250m in reduced

### £1m package for KPMG chief

COLIN SHARMAN, the international chairman of the professional services firm KPMG, received total pay of more than £1m last year, according to the firm's annual report and accounts published today. Mr Sharman, who retains his international role, retired as senior partner of the UK practice when the financial year ended on 30 September 1998. In that period, he saw his executive remuneration increase from £510,000 to £665,000.

### STOCK MARKETS

| PTSE 100       | DOW JONES  | NBCICEL |
|----------------|------------|---------|
| 6100           | 9380       | 14600   |
| 6000           | 9340       | 1400    |
| 5900           | 9300       | 14200   |
| 5800 T F M T W | 9250       | 14000   |
|                | T F M TT W | TEMTW   |

|                  |                           | INDA             | CES           |                 |              |          |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|
| Index            | Clase                     |                  |               | 52 wik bligth ! | Z wak low Yi | नवास्त्र |
| FTSE 100         | 5940.30                   | -72,70           | -1.21         | 6195.60         | 4599.20      | 2,72     |
| FTSE 250         | 5213 <u>.2</u> 0          | - <u>2.</u> 10   | -0.04         | 5970,90         | 4247.60      | 3.17     |
| FTSE 350         | 2826,40                   | -29.30           | -1.03         | 2969.10         | 2210.40      | 2.79     |
| FTSE All Share   | 2730.31                   | -26.17           | -0.95         | 2886.52         | 2143.53      | 2.84     |
| FTSE SmallCap    | 2182.50                   | 12,70            | 0.59          | 2793.80         | 1834.40      | 3.71     |
| FTSE Fledgling   | 1200.50                   | 4.30             | 0.36          | 1517.10         | 1046.20      | 4.50     |
| FTSE ALM         | 826.70                    | -1.40            | -0.17         | 1146.90         | 761.30       | 1.21     |
| FTSE Eurotop 100 | 2768.81                   | -4 <u>2.43</u>   | -1.51         | 3079.27         | 2018.15      | 2.14     |
| FTSE Eurotop 300 | 1209,16                   | 15. <u>54</u>    | -1.27         | 1332.07         | 880.63       | 2,00     |
| Dow Jones        | 9365.81                   | 92.69            | 1.00          | 9647.96         | 7400.30      | 1.64     |
| Nikitel          | 1 <u>41</u> 61.3 <u>1</u> | -18 <u>8.52</u>  | -1,31         | 17352.35        | 12787.90     | 1.03     |
| Hang Seng        | 9419.85                   | -82.87           | -0.87         | 11926,16        | 6544.79      | 3.74     |
| Dax              | 5085.66                   | -81,21           | -1. <u>57</u> | 6217,83         | 3833.71      | 1.69     |
| S&P 500          | 1272.03                   | 10.02            | 0.79          | 1283.64         | 923.32       | 1.25     |
| Nasdaq           | 2493,16                   | 29.74            | 1_21          | 2533.44         | 1357.09      | 0.27     |
| Toronto 300      | 6721.40                   | 37. <u>62</u>    | 0.56          | 7837,70         | 5320.90      | 1.50     |
| Brazil Bovespa   | 8676.03                   | -55. <u>67</u>   | -0.64         | 12339.14        | 4575.69      | 7.25     |
| Belgium Bel20    | 3440.47                   | -14.72           | -0.43         | <b>3713,2</b> 3 | 2585.74      | 2.06     |
| Amsterdam Exch   | 527.12                    | -5.67            | -1.06         | 600.65          | 366.58       | 1.87     |
| France CAC 40    | 4188.84                   | -54.73           | -1.29         | 4404,94         | 2881.21      | 1.93_    |
| Milan MIB30      | 34192.00                  | -431. <b>0</b> 0 | -1.25         | 39170.00        | 24175.00     | 1,19     |
| Madrid fbex 35   | 9944.20                   | 0.60             | 0.01          | 10989.80        | 6869.90      | 1.88     |
| Irish Overall    | 5339.23                   | 44.68            | 0.84          | 5581.70         | 3732.57      | 1.49     |
| S Korea Comp     | \$53.33                   | -13.95           | -2.46         | 651.95          | 277.37       | 0.06     |
| Australia ASX    | Z918.20                   | 11.20            | 0.39          | 2929.60         | 2386.70      | 3.15     |

INTEREST RATES

| SHORT STERLING | UK 10 YEAR GILT | US LONG BOND                |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 5.64           | 420             | \$30                        |
| 5.62           | 4 16            | 520                         |
| 5.60           | 4.12            | 5.10                        |
| 5 58           | 4.08            | 5.00                        |
| T F M T W      | TFMTW           | TFMTW                       |
|                | German money    | ESPÉRIT ISTRE AQUAI GAPO 14 |

| MC      | MEY A   | <b>MARK</b> | . 1    | 5      |         |             |           |       |
|---------|---------|-------------|--------|--------|---------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| Index   | 3 month | Yr chg      | 2 Year | Yr chg | 10 year | Yr chg      | Long bond | Yr dq |
| UK      | 5.80    | -1.76       | 5,50   | -1,98  | 4.19    | -1.88       | 4.24      | -1.8  |
| US      | 4.97    | -0.65       | 5.10   | -0.56  | 4.84    | 0.72        | 5.27      | _0.6  |
| Japan   | 0.49    | -0.34       | 0.51   | -0.30  | 2.42    | <u>0.39</u> | 3,48      | _0,8  |
| Germany | 3.10    | -0.43       | 3.01   | -0.78  | 3.73    | -1.33       | 4.67      | -0.9  |

| C     | URRENCIE | s   |
|-------|----------|-----|
| 5/E   | €/E      | 194 |
| 1 645 | 1 450    | 190 |
| 1540  | 146      | 185 |

| 11635   |         |        |         | <del></del> | -       |            |         |
|---------|---------|--------|---------|-------------|---------|------------|---------|
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|         |         |        |         |             |         | free 1/1/5 | S for a |
|         | PO      | IND    |         |             |         | LLAR       |         |
|         | at Spec | Charge | "Yr Ago |             | at Span | Cranta     | *Yr /   |
| Dollar  | 1.6350  | -0.54c | 1.6461  | Scerling    | 0.6116  | +0.55p     | 0.60    |
| Euro    | 1,4462  | -0.21c | 1.4079  | Euro        | 1.1300  | -0.51c     | 1.16    |
| Yen     | 184,68  | -40.71 | 207.25  | Yen         | 113.03  | -¥0,96     | 125,    |
| E Index | 100.30  | -0,40  | 105.10  | \$ index    | 104.50  | 0.00       | 109.    |
|         |         |        |         |             | _       |            |         |

### OTHER INDICATORS Index Chy Yrago Next Egs Brent Oil (S) 10,46 0.00 14.64 GDP 115.40 3.00 112.04 Mar Gold (S) 287.55 -0.90 295.35 RPI 164.40 2.80 159.92 Jan

### Silver (S) 5.54 0.26 6.39 Base Rates 6.00 7.25

| MAM.pjoomped         | z.com/uk | SOURCE: BLOC               | MBER      |
|----------------------|----------|----------------------------|-----------|
| TO                   | URIS     | TRATES                     |           |
| Australia (\$)       | 2.4653   | Mexican (nuevo peso)       | 14.99     |
| Austria (schillings) | 19.25    | Netherlands (guilders)     | 3.0853    |
| Belgium (francs)     | 56.60    | New Zealand (S)            | 2.8647    |
| Canada (\$)          | 2.4100   | Norway (kroner)            | 12.12     |
| Cyprus (pounds)      | 0.8107   | Portugal (escudos)         | 279.53    |
| Denmark (kroner)     | 10.46    | Saudi Arabia (rials)       | 5.9601    |
| Finland (markka)     | 8.3547   | Singapore (S)              | 2.6379    |
| France (francs)      | 9.1983   | South Africa (rands)       | 9.4747    |
| Germany (marks)      | 2.7521   | Spain (pesetas)            | 232.96    |
| Greece (drachma)     | 449.86   | Sweden (kronor)            | 12.55     |
| Hong Kong (S)        | 12.29    | Switzerland (francs)       | 2.2520    |
| Ireland (punts)      | 1.1019   | Thailand (bahts)           | 54.49     |
| Indian (rupees)      | 62.46    | Turkey (Ilrasi)            | 527333    |
| Israel (shekels)     | 6.1507   | USA (S)                    | 1.5979    |
| Italy (lira)         | 2725     |                            |           |
| Japan (yen)          | 180.13   | Rates for indication purpo | oses only |
| Malaysia (ringgits)  | 5.9138   |                            | •         |

Source: Thomas Cook

# Takeover Panel throws out GUS appeal

THE TAKEOVER Panel yester-day unanimously dismissed an appeal by Great Universal Stores relating to its success-

ful £1.9bn bid for Argos last year. The panel ruled that GUS had no right to appeal against an earlier decision by the el's executive, which said that the Argos board and its advisers had not breached the code on takeovers during the bid and had not made statements that were misleading.

The panel said GUS had missed the one-month deadline for such appeals and that it

**Associate City Editor** 

should have been told as much by advisers. "The right of appeal must have been well known to GUS (and certainly to its advisers) at the time and yet they did not appeal," the panel said. It is understood that GUS's

chairman, Lord Wolfson, will not now carry out his threat to take legal action against the former Argos directors and the company's advisers, Schroders. It is also considered unlikely he

dustry and House of Lords, as he had previously suggested.

However, GUS was unbowed yesterday, saying it still had several appeals cutstanding with the panel over the Argos deal. Lord Wolfson said: "We believe that statements made by Argos during the course of the bid did not conform to these [the panel's] rules. To be ruled out of time, with the result that such

substantive issues will not be reviewed by the panel, seems to us to be unreasonable." The ruling comes a year to

hostile bid for Argos. After it won with its raised £1.9bn offer, Lord Wolfson, complained to the panel that Argos's then directors and advisers had breached

the rules with certain claims in the bid process. The complaints centred on claims made regarding the per-formance of the Argos stores in Holland and plans for a home delivery operation.

The former Argos directors, including chief executive Street Rose, and Schroders, its advisers, denied any breach and

Department of Trade and In- the day after GUS launched its this view was upheld by the panel's executive. GUS went on the offensive

yesterday by disclosing Schroders' £5.7m fixed fee for the Argos defence, with an additional 2.5 per cent of any value offered over 625p a share. it was right that an additional consumer spending.
£1.5bn would be payable in the Lord Wolfson has said he £1.5bn would be payable in the event of a successful defence against a hostile bid.

at such "success fees" as well and for the panel's rules to be as the time period for

GUS's aggressive actions have surprised many in the City, who saw them as

Some have seen them as an attempt to find another party to blame after paying £1.9on for a retail group at the peak of the It further questioned whether market just ahead of a fall in

was acting on a "point of principle" and that he was seeking The panel said it would look "a red card" for the Argos team

Outlook, page 17

# UK pressed by Commission to rejoin ERM BRUSSELS yesterday stepped BY STEPHEN CASTLE up the pressure on Britain to in Brussels euro entry, Gordon Brown, the becomes an irrelevance.

rejoin Europe's Exchange Rate Mechanism, highlighting the pound's volatility as the sole impediment to UK membership

Asked about the UK position, Yves-Thibault de Silguy, Mone-tary Affairs Commissioner, reminded the British government that, of the five criteria for membership of the single currency, "one of them is ERM".

After issuing a statement praising most aspects of UK economic performance, Mr de Silguy told a press conference: If and when the UK decides to join the euro it will have to comply with the same conditions as those complied with by the first wave countries." These include sticking to the "margins set out is a freaty requirement to join

It held back from a formal

plea to the UK to join the ERM

in deference to the British

single currency opt-out. By

contrast, the Commission said

Sweden, the only other EU

nation neither in the euro nor

the ERM, was expected to join

reminder will embarrass the

Government, which knows that

re-entering the ERM would be

politically explosive. In Sep-

tember 1992, sterling crashed

out of the mechanism, under-

mining the credibility of John Major's administration.

While Tony Blair's govern-

"in due course".

Chancellor, has denied any intention to rejoin the ERM. Under the Maastricht Treaty, membership of the ERM for two years is a precondition of entry into monetary union. Since the euro's debut, the mechanism has been replaced by "ERM2". launched with Denmark and Greece as members.

Yesterday Alan Donnelly, leader of the European Parliamentary Labour Party joined the debate, arguing that the treaty refers to the original ERM, not ERM2 and hence Britain would not be barred from joining immediately after a referendum. He added: "Those who say there investment as a share of GDP.

ERM2 are simply wrong. If the fundamental economics are right, membership or otherwise

Although the 11 member states are unlikely to hold Britain to the letter of the Maastricht Treaty's two-year stipulation, a prolonged period of exchange-rate stability would almost certainly be demanded.

That will be a problem for the Chancellor, and could force him to shadow the euro even if he escapes the full ERM membership provisions. Otherwise Brussels gave the UK a good bill of health, approving "realistic" projections of public finances being close to balance by 2002 and highlighting the rising level of government Outlook, page 17

# Major to advise company the Treasury outlined how pelicy would match targets for some properties with the Treasury outlined how pelicy would match targets for some properties that the contraction with the Treasury outlined how pelicy would match targets for some period to the treasury outlined how pelicy would match targets for some period to the treasury outlined how pelicy would match targets for some period to the treasury outlined how pelicy would match targets for some period to the treasury outlined how pelicy would match targets for some period to the treasury outlined how pelicy would match targets for some period to the treasury outlined how pelicy would match targets for some period to the treasury outlined how pelicy would match targets for some period to the treasury outlined how pelicy would match targets for some period to the treasury outlined how pelicy would match targets for some period to the treasury outlined how pelicy would match targets for some period to the treasury outlined how pelicy would match targets for some period to the treasure pe

worries on exchange-rate fluc-A SERIES of gloomy business surveys published vesterday tuations. Brussels called on the UK to "continue with its stafuelled speculation that the bility-oriented framework for Bank of England would today macro-economic policy with a view to achieving exchangein interest rates, writes Lea

> Committee gives its decision at midday, with most in the City expecting another quarterpoint cut. This would take rates to 5.75 per cent, their lowest for almost three years.

Fresh evidence yesterday of weak retail spending and a Nevertheless, Mr de Silguy's slowdown in the service sector strengthened the case for further cuts, said City analysts. The speculation sent sterling lower. against the euro; the pound weakened 0.28p to 69.26p.
The Confederation of British

Industry's monthly distributive trades survey was weaker than anticipated, with 38 per ment appears anxious to pre- cent of retailers saying sales in tuate markedly from month to pare British public opinion for January were lower than a month.

said sales were higher Alastair Eperon of the CBI said: "The drop in volumes in January deliver its fifth successive cut dashed hopes of a lift from new year sales activity."

The monthly Chartered In-The Bank's Monetary Policy stitute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) report on services found that the sector shrank in James of the third successive CIPS said the benchmark

purchasing managers' index (PMI) registered 48.6 in January, compared to 47.4 in December. Any PMI reading below 50 indicates the sector is contracting. However, the increase in the

index between December and January suggests that the rate of contraction is slowing. Several analysts cautioned

against reading too much into the surveys, which tend to fluc-

### SG Paribas covets UK's high bank charges

£10bn financial giant, yesterday said it would more than double its profitability if it could levy the same high charges on customers as British banks.

Daniel Bouton, vice chairman of SG Paribas, said: "We would have a return on equity of 40 per cent if we worked with the prices and margins you have in the UK market."

SG PARIBAS, France's new By Andrew GARFIELD Financial Editor

Mr Major's new job is with Emerson Electric, which was critically year for aggressive takeover factics in buying out the UK comp

JOHN MAJOR, the former BY JOHN WILLCOCK

prime minister, has been

appointed chairman of the

European Advisory Council of

Emerson Electric Company,

the American group that pro-

voked a storm of opposition in

the City last year over its

giant based in St Louis, Mis-

souri, was faced by legal action

by 18 City institutions when it

sought to buy out the minority

shareholders in Astec. a UK

listed company, in spring 1998.

advisory role with another US

company Carlyle Group, based in Washington DC. Carlyle

Group has been seeking a deal

with Vickers, the British com-

pany, over the manufacture of

armoured vehicles

Mr Major already has an

Emerson, an electronics

aggressive takeover tactics.

at centre of Astec farore

The ex-prime minister is

Mr Major's new job is likely

to raise eyebrows in the City.

Emerson had built a 51 per cent

stake in Astec and then of-

fered to buy out the rest at the

prevailing market price of 111p.

At the same time Emerson

announced its intention to

remove three Astec executive

directors and replace them

with Emerson appointees.

while also voting to stop Astec's

This prompted the 18 mainly

British institutions which rep-

resented a quarter of Astec's shares to issue a statement say-

dividend payments.

still active politically, address-

ing the House of Commons on

Tuesday on the proposed re-

form of the House of Lords.

Currently, French banks, including Société Générale, which this week merged with Paribas to create the new French banking group, enjoy a

return on equity of only 15 per cent, against Lloyds-TSB's 30 a week after Don Cruickshank, the former telecoms watchdog, launched a year-long UK government-sponsored inquiry into the competitiveness of

ing they "protested vigorously at the tactics currently em-

ployed by Emerson in its

attempt to wrest control from

Medical, Electra Fleming, Legal

& General, Norwich Union and

Royal & SunAiliance. They chal-

lenged Emerson's tactics in the

courts, but lost. Emerson re-

treated and then quietly bought

the remaining Astec shares at

An Emerson spokesman

said Mr Major's new role was

"designed to advise Emerson

on the changing business climate in Europe. He will be paid, but the amount is confi-

dential. The Advisory Council

will meet two or three times a

year, and Mr Major may be con-sulted on an ad hoc basis."

the end of last year.

The group included Clerical

Astec's independent board".

Mr Bouton said Société Générale was in fact far more efficient that its British rivals, but was less profitable than comparable British banks M Bouton's claims came just because unfair competition

from state and mutual-owned special situation because of night, the two heads of the banks kept banking margins in France uneconomically low. He said he believed that said.

Barclays and Lloyds-TSB were their experience in Britain did not prepare them for the line. tougher realities in France.

France by acquisition. But he warned the UK players that

The problem for the banks headhunters. both looking to break into in France, he said, was not so much getting costs down, as was yesterday set up to oversee these were already relatively low, but to raise the income

"You (in Britain) have a very 4,100 London-based staff last of business.

the high returns made by the combined bank dismissed talk predominantly retail banks," he of job cuts of 20 per cent as scaremongering put about by

> A three-person committee the integration of the investment bank. They will in turn appoint 15 working groups to advise them on specific areas

### AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

### LONDON

AFTER A three-day winning run Footsie lost ground, giving up 72.7 points to 5,940.3p. Even the mid cap index, in rampant form lately, suffered a modest setback. Trading was again heavy, with turnover reaching 1.1 billion shares.

The market discounted the possibility of yet lower interest rates, paying more attention to gloomy comments from the Confederation of British Industry. British Airways was one Footsie constituent to ride out the caution, gaining 16p to 374.5p.

Derek Païn, page 21

NEW YORK

STOCKS rose for the first time in three days after the Federal Reserve left benchmark interest rates unchanged, fuelling confidence that profits would rise as the economy grows with little inflation. Online brokerages surged, and Intel led a rally in semiconductor shares after forming ventures with Mattel and

Analog Devices. The Dow Jones gained 92.69 points, or 1 per cent, to 9,366.81. The S&P 500 gained 10.08 to 1,272.07 and the Nasdaq climbed <sup>1</sup> 29.99, or 1.2 per cent, to 2,493.41.

### ● TOKYO

STOCKS FELL for the third successive day, with the rising yen and failing bonds undermining sentiment. The benchmark Nikkei 225 index closed down 188.52 points, or 1.31 per cent, at 14,161.31. March

futures slid 80 points to 14,220. Global blue chips, including Sony, Honda and Canon, suffered from the yen's appreciation. Falling bonds hit shares in banks, major holders of government debt.

Sumitomo Rubber bucked the trend, jumping almost 8 per cent on news of its planned link with the US tvre giant Goodyear.

### FRANKFURT

PROFITTAKING ahead of yesterday's US interest-rate decision undermined German stocks. The electronically traded Xetra DAX ended down 74.88 points, or 1.45 per cent, at 5,090.07. The floor DAX fell 1.57 per cent to 5,085.66 points. One trader said: "Domestic

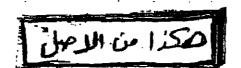
players aren't doing anything and we're basically waiting for what happens in America."

Bank stocks - which chalked up solid gains earlier in the week following the SocGen/Paribas linkup - were among the major fallers.

### SAO PAULO

SHARES ended weaker as profittaking continued on the back of a calm foreign exchange market which also drove away buyers who had sought to make money on the back of a weaker real

The blue chip Bovespa index lost 0.64 per cent to finish at 8,676 points, after reaching a session high of 8,897. The market beliwether, Telebras, closed down 0.79 per cent "It's time for profittaking. Things are no longer rough, with the real/dollar rate stabilising and interest rates steady," said a trader



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# GUS complaint leaves a sour taste

terday of the launch of Great Universal Stores' hostile bid for the catalogue retailer Argos. It was also the day on which the Takeover Panel chose to throw out the complaint subsequently brought by the GUS chairman, Lord Wolfson, over tactics used by Argos and its advisers, Schroders, in the unsuccessful bid defence.

Perhaps the panel is trying to make a point. In the eyes of some, Lord Wolfson's initial complaint to the Takeover Panel's executive last May was petulant and vindictive. not to mention offensive and a waste of time. The executive conchided in June that no breach of the City Takeover Code had taken place. But Lord Wolfson is not the sort to take no for an answer and decided eventually to appeal against the executive's ruling to the full panel.

His actions smacked then of a man who had overpaid for the business and was seeking to take it out on someone else. They still do, as yesterday's eight-page rant from the GUS camp against the ruling amply demonstrates.

The panel, of course, is too polite to say as much. So instead it has on a point of principle.



contented itself with turning Lord Wolfson down on a technicality that he did not get his appeal in on

The rules are straightforward enough and had Lord Wolfson or his advisers, Merrill Lynch, managed to get as far as page four of the Takeover Code they could have read it in black and white. Any appeal has to be lodged within one month. Lord Wolfson took four and a half months.

In anticipation perhaps that he was likely to lose the argument, Lord Wolfson's advisers have been furiously peddling the line that his complaint against Argos was based

If that was the case, it is odd that he should have personally pursued four Argos directors, most of whom are now out of a job, writing a fourpage letter containing the thinly veiled threat of legal action.

A less charitable but more plausible interpretation of Lord Wolfson's actions was that he was seeking to get a favourable ruling from the panel under his belt as a prejude to taking the four directors and Schroders to the courts and thence to the cleaners.

Along the way, he has made few friends. For the first time in the panel's 31-year existence, he chose to question the impartiality of the executive's director-general, Alistair Defriez, on the grounds that he is on secondment from SBC Warburg Dillon Read, the brokers to Argos. Presumably Lord Wolfson overlooked the fact that Warburgs is also GUS's principal adviser.

The one crumb of comfort Lord Wolfson can take is that the panel has promised to look at the practice of investment banks being paid a higher success fee in the event of fighting off a hostile bid – as was the case with Schroders.

But otherwise, the entire episode leaves a sour taste in the mouth.

Today Lord Wolfson ought to feel the single currency will not cause little wiser, but the betting is he

### ERM poser

WHAT A SHAME it is when the cool reasoning of economics is disrupted by the dirty realism of politics. The new offensive by the European Commission to get the UK into the post-euro version of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism could be seen as pure mischief-making. given the realities of British politics.

The penalty the Conservatives paid in opinion polls for the 1992 ERM disaster means no British government will ever be willing to take the pound back into a formal mechanism as a prelude to joining the single currency. Ministers and officials insist that it is not a requirement of the Maastricht Treaty, and that a period of reasonable exchange-rate stability between the pound and the euro will be enough.

This makes perfect economic sense. All that matters is that the British economy should behave enough like the continental economies that UK membership of

just a little chastened as well as a undue strain. Gordon Brown's five tests, including the impact on jobs and investment and the degree of flexibility in the economy, are laughably vague and judgemental. But they nevertheless capture what really matters in the big euro decision in a way the formal Maas-

tricht criteria never did.

However, if our friends in Brussels do decide to make a fuss about the formality of the pound's membership in the ERM, as opposed to the reality of its behaviour for the next couple of years, the only purpose can be to exert pressure on the UK in other ways. This could well turn out to be faster movement towards fiscal harmonisation than

Britain might otherwise desire. Although it carries its own difficulties, opinion inside Euroland has swung decisively in favour of faster integration on this front. Both Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French finance minister, and Oskar Lafontaine, his German counterpart, have signalled their desire for it. First-wave members will want

new members to keep up. Unfortunately, this too is pretty much a taboo area in British politics at present. Despite the incredibly successful launch of the new currency, a sensible policy debate about British membership of the euro looks as remote as ever.

### Pension chaos

MYSTIFIED ABOUT pensions? Anyone planning for their retirement in the past few years would be forgiven for feeling overwhelmed. Just as they start coming to terms with one new assortment of initials and proposals on the pension front, along comes another to confuse them even further.

As if to confirm everyone's belief that pensions are far too complicated for common mortals, the Treasury yesterday published plans for yet another investment "vehicle" we will be allowed to use for our retirement planning.

This so-far unnamed new model don't call it a Lisa, the bureaucrats hate the term), aims to be more flexible than both the occupational pensions already available from most large employers, and the stakeholder pensions announced in December. Most of us will, however, struggle to see the unique selling

By giving pooled investments from unit and investment trust funds the same tax breaks as ordinary pension schemes, the Government is hoping to create a new breed of cheap, flexible pension that we will be able to start and stop at will, without incurring heavy charges.

Treasury ministers seem to hope that by doing so, they will kill off the existing personal pensions system, in which life companies offer expensive products with heavy surrender penalties. The idea is that insurers will be forced to compete on price with more competitive unit and investment trusts.

Nothing wrong with that, it might be said. However, clarity and simplicity are usually the most important things when it comes to investment, and on this front the new Government doesn't seem to be making much progress. The proposed changes replicate many features already available elsewhere with personal pensions.

The Treasury seems only to be creating more confusion on the pension front. The only really exciting thing about the proposals was the name Lisa - and now they even want to take that away

### IN BRIEF

### Granada creates 2,500 new jobs

GRANADA, the media and hotels group, is to create over 2,500 jobs in its roadside catering and Travelodge businesses as it expands its leisure operations.

The news came as a Granada statement at its annual meeting yesterday said current trading was "very positive". However, the company dismissed speculation that it might rget Whitbread as an acquisition, stressing that the company's priority was organic growth.

### Global tyre giant

GOODYEAR, the US tyre giant, yesterday merged its worldwide operations with Sumitomo Rubber of Japan creating the world's largest tyre maker with sales of \$15.5bn (£9.6bn).

The US company will t the dominant partner and will control the European and US businesses of the enlarged group after paying \$936m to Sumitomo. The link will lead to 2,600 job losses in Goodyear's US workforce.

### Synstar to float

ROGER FERRÉ, chief executive of Synstar, and four fellow directors are expected own shares worth around £15m when the computer services group joins the London Stock Exchange in March after less than 18 months in private hands.

Synstar, a management buyout from Granada for £89m in September 1997, may be valued at £200m.

### 3i's campaign

31, the venture capital group, is to launch a lobby campaign to convince shareholders in rival Electra to accept its £1.2bn offer. 3i is expected to urge the investment trust's main shareholders to put pressure on the Electra board to agree to a takeover

Lucas reassures LUCASVARITY yesterday ssured its 50,000 retired aployees that their pensions would not be put at risk by the company's sale to

a US rival. Lucas wrote to all its pensioners to tell them that union fears of a raid by a US buyer on its pension fund surplus - valued at up to £1.2bn - were unfounded. Lucas has agreed to a £4bn takeover by the US engineering group TRW.

THE CITY jobs shake-out has

come to the aid of the Financial

Services Authority (FSA).

parting an end to a recruitment cases that threatened to com-

promise the City watchdog's

effectiveness in its first year.

Howard Davies, FSA chair-

man, said yesterday that with

more people coming on to the

jobs market, the gap that led the

authority to underspend its

budget by £10m last year was

close to being closed. Average

pay in the City rose by 5 per

The difficult areas where

cent last year, he said.



ing forces to form a new book wholesale venture, Bertram Group, backed by £54m of equity funding from Mercury Asset Management Private Equity. From left: Julian Rivers and Raymond Grey of Bertram Group and Jeremy Sharman of Mercury

# **US** brokers seek to curb Internet frenzy

industry is seeking ways to curb wild swings in Internet-related stocks as investors continue their frenzied pursuit of profits, many of them trading online from home computers without advice from specialist brokers. Wall Street has reeled in re-

cent months from the impact of galloping Internet stocks and

online trading in January may have leapt by between 25 and 50 per cent. Most of the increase was due to the seemingly unstoppable interest of individual investors in Internet stocks such as Amazon.com and

BY ANDREW GARFIELD

City salaries have raced away

are lawyers, accountants and

compliance officers in the se-

curities area. These have been

difficult to recruit over the past

up to 1,800, 4 to 5 per cent below

the target of 1,900. Last June,

turnover hit 20 per cent. "Merg-

ers and downsizing have been

putting on the market the kind

of people we would recruit," Mr

The SFA head count is now

12 months," he said.

Davies said

Financial Editor

Shakeout helps FSA recruit staff

THE AMERICAN securities BY DAVID USBORNE

the cyber-auction site, eBay. Concern is rising that some investors, overwhelmed by the prospect of fabulous hi-tech gains, may be over-exposed. While Internet stocks have risen strongly across the board, many individual issues have fluctuated wildly, sometimes by up to 40 per cent in an hour: eBay moved between \$160 and

\$220 on 22 January. This week Charles Schwab, the leader in online brokerages, said it was increasing from 50 per cent to 70 per cent the amount of investor assets - or maintenance margin-required to back up any of 23 Internet and computer-related funds bought with borrowed money. The Nasdaq exchange, home

The high turnover caused by

integrating the various regula-

tors, the move to Canary Wharf

and the difficulty in finding re-

placements has put unaccept-

able pressure on existing staff

The FSA claims to offer

salaries competitive with com-

parable City firms, but it can-

not match the large bonus

elements of City packages. The higher stafflevel means

that the control total for the FSA

hudget next year will rise by 9

per cent to £158.5m, although

and delayed some projects.

At the same time the Securities and Exchange Commission has been debuged with complaints from investors about faltering service from online brokerages. Most problems have been caused by websites simply unable to cope with demand. Yesterday, E-Trade, the number three online brokerage, suffered a freezing of its site and had to apologise to customers.

As demand grows, the online dealing jam may get much worse before it gets better.

higher than the £145m the FSA

would have spent if it had had

its full staff complement in

1998/99, a fall in real terms.

Salaries are the biggest item in the FSA budget, accounting for

Mr Davies said the costs

associated with the move to

Canary Wharf were £13m last

year, but savings in terms of

lower support costs were

The banks have also gained

a one-off saving of £30m as a

result of the shift to the FSA's

£104.6m or 66 per cent.

already being made.

fee-based system.

### BT to invest £5bn on making network faster for millions

MILLIONS OF UK households will sign up to high-speed Internet services from British Telecom by 2004 as part of a £5bn, five-year investment programme, the telephone giant predicted yesterday.

Sir Peter Bonfield, BT's chief executive, said he expected 'several million" residential customers to sign up for the service over the next five years. BT is currently preparing to

offer a technology called ADSL, which allows ordinary copper telephone wires to carry data to its residential customers at speeds up to 40 times faster than the best available modern.

The move follows the completion of a trial involving 2,000 customers in west London, Internet protocols, which divide which the company says has

BY PETER THAL LARSEN expect the technology to be

formally launched nationally later this year. "We are very positive about BT's commitment to ADSL,"

said Claire Rothman, telecoms analyst at SG Securities. "They have been cautious about rolling it out until now, because sometimes you can be too early with new technology." The launch will be part of the

investment programme announced yesterday, which will extend BT's networks in the UK and continental Europe, allowing the company to offer a range of new services at lower prices.

The network is based on voice and data traffic into small

fibre-optic cable at high speed. The technology increases the amount of telecoms traffic BT can carry, while bringing down costs and allowing it to offer new services. This could stem the steady flow of large business customers to rival operators such as Colt and WorldCom.

"This is a major milestone in creating the foundation for electronic business on a pan-European scale," said Chris Earnshaw, BT's engineering and technology director.

The amount of data traffic in the UK is expected to grow by more than 150 per cent over the next five years, creating a market worth up to £10bn. The use of Internet protocols will eventually make it impossible to dis-

BT has just finished building its pan-European network, which stretches across 36,000 kilometres and links London and most of the major business centres in Europe. The network will be formally opened in Amsterdam next month.

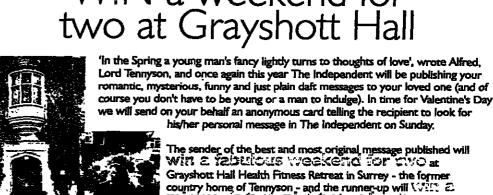
Over the next five years, BT will expand the network in the UK to increase its reach. By the time it is complete, three-quarters of BT's existing business customers will be no more than 500 metres from a direct connection to fibre-optic cable.

Other operators such as MCI WorldCom, Cable & Wireless and KPN Qwest, a joint venture between Dutch and US telecoms operators, are at various stages of building pantinguish between voice and European networks based on Internet protocols.

soaring popularity of online trading. Trading over the Web rose 34 per cent in the last quarter of last year. About one in seven stock trades in the US are now conducted in cyberspace. Latest estimates show that

to most hi-tech listings, has considered rules that would allow it to suspend trading in individual stocks when prices move too fast on a single day. But a Nasdaq panel yesterday rejected the proposal, as some brokers voiced concern about how the halts would be triggered and whether they would worsen price swings.

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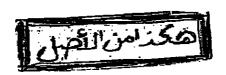
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# How is it that all these gloomy businessmen are employing more people?

START WITH an immediate question and a bigger puzzle. The immediate question is how fast UK interest rates will come down; the bigger puzzle is what is actually happening to the British economy.

Of course, the two are closely related. If Britain is indeed flirting with recession, as the mainline City forecasters are predicting, then rates will come down very swiftly. If not, the fall will still

occur but will take longer The puzzle is that the UK data do not add up. Something is happening that we don't yet understand. On the one hand, surveys of business confidence point to recession, and the economy did seem to slow during the last quarter of last year, but the number of people in jobs and the hours being worked continue to rise.

We will get some direct information on interest rates this afternoon, for the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee is meeting now. But whether we get the next little bit off rates this month or next is less important than the fact that the downward trend is clearly quite secure.

You have to have an extraordinary faith in the powers of monetary policy to believe that it makes much difference whether one-quarter or half a percentage point off the cost of short-term funds is going to make much difference to the trend in the economy. It is much more important that people are convinced that money will continue to become cheaper and that businesses see sterling continuing at a reasonable level. The case for the nibbling, quarter-point cuts is as much their indirect impact on confidence as their direct impact on the cost of funds. But a month or two of delay in rate cuts will not do much harm.

The bigger puzzle is whether an economy with gloomy businesses can really continue growing. Look at ton err team at Tokai Bank have fitted the trend in business optimism, as measured by CBI surveys, with the actual performance of the economy going back almost 20 years. It is a neat piece of work, carrying the obvious message that we are in for a recession of similar magnitude to those of the early 1980s and early

When you see something like that, you have to sit up and think, for the implications are pretty alarming. Whatever arguments you make about



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The UK data do not add up. Something is happening that we do not yet understand

the CBI over-representing the views of big business, the impact of deflation on profits, or the particular difficulties faced by exporters, the plain fact remains that our business community appears to be as fearful of the future as it was when we headed into the last two recessions. And they were very unpleasant

Now look at the lower of the two graphs. Not only has employment been rising almost every month for the past four years, but the number of hours worked has been climbing steadily too. As the Deutsche Bank economics team, which highlighted those figures, puts it: "The current pattern of data is truly mysterious." These profoundly

4 quarter mov average (LHS)

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gloomy business people are a fall-off in demand. I can see busily taking on more staff, and they are not doing so out of altruism or some desire to encourage social cohesion. has been changed by deflation. They must be doing so because there is a lot of work a phenomenon they have to be done.

There is a common-sense relentless, grinding pressure way of solving a bit of the puzzle. The chue is that most rying on and on and on. True, of the additional employment is part-time, and that which is not seems to be on shortterm contract. So these gloomy businesses are coping with the workload not by staffing up on a permanent basis, but by pulling in temporary labour. The managers have been told that they cannot hire any new people, but they still have to get the work done. So they hunt around for the assorted army of temps, contract workers, interns and students.

The fact that students now have to pay fees has probably increased the supply of parttime workers. And anecdotally there is, at least in the south England, enormous demand for them. Our labour

force is becoming much more

like the American one. But that does not solve the core of the puzzle, which is that hours worked seem to keep on rising, despite the most recent evidence that the service sector may be following manufacturing and seeing

90 92 94 96

Hours worked and employment

come through in the statistics. The third possibility is that the economy is actually still expanding at a decent clip and will carry on expanding, albeit more slowly, through the rest of this year. In other words the output data, which show some UK CBI business optimism and GDP signs of slowing, are wrong. It is extremely hard to measure the output of many service industries. You can

count the number of people flying through Heathrow, but you cannot count the informal economy - the economy that takes place outside the tax net. We are currently switching to self-assessment, which is boosting government revenues because, in effect, two vears of tax are being collected in one year. But maybe the disagreeable experience of the army of self-employed to shift a bit more of their activities into the informal economy. We just don't know.

At any rate, predictions of zero growth this year are now common in the City. My guess is still that the slowdown this year will be less marked than the markets at present think, although more marked than the Chancellor thought last . November.

The greater test, for all sorts of reasons, will be the year 2000. But we have to get

News Analysis: Lawrence Summers reveals his reform plans

# America's man to save world finances

BY DIANE COYLE **Economics Editor** 

only three possible explana-

The first is that something

Companies are experiencing

never experienced before: a

their raw material prices are

falling even faster, but that may make them feel even

more vulnerable. These input

prices might come up; and

even if they don't, maybe the

squeeze felt by, say, the oil

companies will be extended

further along the production

chain. This might explain the

excessive gloom of the CBI

members: it is deflation rather

than recession that is spook-

that there is a lag in the em-ployment data. These figures

are unlikely to be wrong,

because they are measuring

hard numbers. But lags are

the bane of economists.

Maybe both employment and

hours worked will start to fall

in the next few months, or

maybe they have already

started to fall in the past few

weeks and that has not yet

The second explanation is

ing them.

LAWRENCE SUMMERS, the Deputy Secretary of the US Treasury, is the man at the heart of the debate about how to tackle the troubled state of the world economy and financial system. More than any other individual, the Harvard economist turned policy-maker is in a position to steer the world towards calmer waters.

In an exclusive interview with The Independent yesterday, Mr Summers emphasised the scale of the challenge facing the US and other governments.

"There has been considerable repair in recent months, but there are still very important challenges," he said.

He would not characterise himself as an optimist, "World growth is likely to be considerably lower than it has been in recent years. There is a lot for policy-makers to do."

One of the preoccupations of the US administration that emerged at the recent gathering at the World Economic Forum in Davos was the reliance of the rest of the world on the American economy, the only significant engine of growth at present.

"One of the challenges is ensuring that the world economy flies on multiple engines, not just the US." said Mr Summers.

He echoed the view expressed by Al Gore, the US Vice-President, that American consumers and companies could not act as importers of last resort for the rest of the world. The strength of US growth set against the rest of the world's is helping to send the country's balance of payments into record deficit. Asked whether he thought

other G7 countries were doing too little to stimulate their own growth rates, Mr Summers added: "The important priority in both Japan and Europe has to be domestic demand-led growth. The use of macroeconomic policies to achieve

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Lawrence Summers is worried about the reliance of the rest of the world on the American economy Popperfoto

that the successive waves of financial and economic crisis were now over, and in particular remained cautious about

prospects for Brazil. The success of the IMF-led rescue for Brazil now depends on the government's ability to implement budget reforms tax increases and spending cuts - in the face of political opposition. "Brazil's policy choices, the choices made by the government and people of Brazil, will be profoundly important, and certainly also to

the US," Mr Summers said. One lesson of the turmoil in emerging markets that began in Mexico at the end of 1994, and re-emerged in east Asia in mid-1997 was, he concluded that good economic policies, in the carry through on that agenda." get deficits and structural be reviewed.

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He was careful not to predict reforms, do work. "When countries are able to implement good policies, then, like Korea and Thailand, they have started to recover."

The experience of successive crises had also set clear priorities for reforms to the international "financial architecture". At the top of the list was improved transparency.

"For the American capital markets, the most important single innovation was the idea of generally accepted accounting principles," he said. The spread of these principles "has the potential to bring about far-reaching cultural change".

In addition, better banking supervision and regulation would be needed. Mr Summers said the Basle capital standards, set by the Bank for In-

Thirdly, the international authorities needed better systems of crisis response.

Asked whether such detailed changes would satisfy critics such as George Soros - who argue that the world financial system has fundamentally broken down and needs sweeping reform, he replied: "These are serious and technical matters.

but they are very profound." However, speaking hours before the US Federal Reserve decided to announce its decision to leave US interest rates unchanged this month. Mr Summers was considerably less gloomy about the outlook for the US economy.

"The basic momentum of the US expansion should be maintained," he said, "albeit with some ups and downs."

"The economy is growing rapidly, inflation is low, the banking system is well capitalised and there is great flexibility. It gives the economy the ability to respond well to any shocks."

There were two important priorities for the US, in his diagnosis. One was working to combat inequality; the Achilles' heel of the remarkable success of the American economy.

The other was raising the saving rate, which has fallen to zero for the household sector. The private sector as a whole has a record financial deficit.

Mr Summers admitted somewhat reluctantly, that he saw some merit in the "new economy" argument that new technology had improved the country's underlying perfor-

"New developments in information technology are very important, and there's no question we seem to be in a period when normal rates of unemployment have fallen and normal rates of growth have

But he went on: "These are real changes, but it would be a mistake to assume they will be permanent changes.

"Still, I am increasingly convinced information technolo-

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# Sacked Royal staff claim £25m

ROYAL & SunAlliance today BY BARRIE CLEMENT faces a claim for £25m from former employees in a test case with critical implications for the way companies conduct takeovers and mergers.

The Manufacturing Science Finance union is claiming compensation on behalf of 5,000 staff who lost their jobs when Royal Insurance merged with in Alliance to form the new

Union lawyers today start a "class action" at Liverpool Employment Tribunal claiming that management defied a European directive when it abided by the directive. failed to consult employees before making them redundant.

Labour Editor

1995

If the company is successful other merged groups, such as CGU and Norwich Union, will face similar claims together amounting to another £18m. The case will also set a precedent for all mergers and take-

overs in Britain. Roger Lyons, general secretary of the MSF, said yesterday that if the union failed in its litigation, the Government would be forced to introduce fresh law to ensure that the UK

The European statute stipulates that there should be

three months of consultation with employees if a merger will mean job losses or

Mr Lyons said that the 5,000 sacked workers at RSA first heard their jobs were under threat when the company let the figure slip on Radio Four's Today programme. "They choked on their Rice Krispies. This is not the way to tell people they are going to lose their

He pointed out that the directive on collective redundancies states that workers' representatives should be involved in the decision-making process before there was any

"contemplation" of redundancies.

The union is concerned that the tribunal on Merseyside might adhere to another legal ruling which found that the amalgamation of Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance was a "transfer of shares", not a merger, and therefore not susceptible to European law. "If that were the case, there would be a glaring loophole in British law which is duty bound to reflect the

European directive," he said. If the decision goes against the union, Mr Lyons said he would complain to the European Union under Article 169 of the Treaty of Rome.



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### Sage pays £88m for **US** software supplier

operations in the United States by buying Peachtree, a rival supplier for £88m, writes Peter Thal Larsen.

The deal complements Sage's existing US operation, which is based on State of the Art (SOTA), the West Coastbased software group that Sage bought a year ago.

Peachtree, based in Atlanta. sells accountancy software to small business users through retail outlets. SOTA sells mainly through value-added resellers. Sage bought the business

SAGE, the accounting software which had originally planned to group, has strengthened its float the company on the stock market but changed its mind last October when the financial markets hit trouble. "We have been looking at the

US entry level market for a while," said Paul Walker, Sage's chief executive. "Peachtree complements precisely the business we bought a year ago." To help fund the deal, Sage

vesterday raised £66.6m by placing 3.49 million new shares with institutional investors at 1.910p. Sage shares surged through

the £20 mark for the first time responded well to the deal. from Automatic Data Processing, the US services giant, They closed up 77.5p at 2,040p.

THE INDEPENDENT Thursday 4 February 1999

MAIN MOVERS RISES **FALLS** 121.35 15.50 -#5.5% -2.05 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 | 1/2 me Fo 111.55 -5.87 MM 494 Smith & Prov. \$19.5 19.5 2.9 81.6 2336 525 632 Utchanger 581.5 -70 47 176 1395 12.00 18.29 397,25 -E.61 35.00 Z.SS 9.32 8.84 TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm 9.25st 87R 6.70m Gen Elec 5.03m Record 6.95st Anto-Rayon 9.85st Bra Taleco HOUR BY HOUR **¥**THE INDEPENDENT THE INDEPENDENT For all the latest financial and market information call The Independent Teleshare TE LASAC 22 Minument 12 Plense 38 2" Sanger 64 30 Soccins 4" Tallow 68 24-hour access to UK share prices in real-time Call 09001 201 200 Portfolio Service Call 0870 600 4200 All 09000 calls cost 50p per minutes

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ente es es estados.

as speculation swirled of

more takeover activity among

pub companies, shares of one

of the industry's high-flyers

crashed following a shock

The Old English Pub Co

slumped 103.5p to 157.5p after

parting company with finance

director Stuart Simpson and

saying profits would be neares

£7m than the £9m the stock

the pub sector, which has been

in a rare old ferment following

the Enterprise Inns takeover

approach to Inn Business and

the Regent Inns/SFI merger

Greenalls, the hotels and

oubs chain which is thought to

be experiencing pressure from

City institutions, frothed up 12p

to 342.50; JD Wetherspoon,

which has so far remained aloof

from the corporate activity, rose

12.5p to 214p, and Luminar

But once Old English rolled

out its trading gloom towards

the close, gains were pared

back, with Century Inns end-

It seems Old English ex-

ing 10.5p lower at 113.5p.

DIAGEO fell 28.5p to

Arnault, the French

tycoon, is imminent.

651.5p on worries that a

Mr Arnault's group,

of the spirits behemoth

and may be in need of

a Diageo director -

more flexibility over

the LVMH interest.

LVMH, owns 10.8 per cent

cash for its fashion build-

Mr Arnault, who quit as

selling shares - is thought

to have beld talks about

unloading at least part of

panded too quickly last year.

Two sets of pubs and hotels it

responsible for the setback,

with costs spiralling. This is the

second time a pub company

has come a cropper: last year

Regent slumped from nearly 400p to around 150p after a sur-

At around the same time

rights issue away; it raised

underwriters took up more

The latest bottom of the bar-

rel pub performance could

destroy a rally in leisure shares

sector has endured a long,

debilitating bear run. The sud-

den awareness of the neglect-

market undercard, plus the

inevitable takeover whispers,

helped the run-down sector

day most shares were in retreat.

Hopes that the nation will

avoid recession, despite more

spending could pick up, were

another interest-rate cut also

The sector has been dev-

astated as doubts set in about

continuing growth, and profit

precasts were pulled back.

ny shares, riding at a peak

helped sentiment.

score a 3.3 per cent gain on a shares.

prise profits warning.

'han half the issue.

presumably to give him

share sale by Bernard

jumped 47.5p to 732.5p.

The fiasco took the shine off

profits warning.

market expected.

des 42

to the time and the territory and the time and the time and the time and the time and time an

064 146 44 182 1821 1610 267 73 0

Mar in film

Pub high-flyer crashes after

profits warning

MARKET

REPORT

PAIN

last Easter, are, despite a little

hesitant headway, still

uncomfortably near their

First Leisure Corpora-

tion, where takeover talk is

never far below the surface,

rose 11.5p to 213.5p, and

Northern Leisure 5p to 129p.

Hard-pressed Rank was a

clared the world's richest foot-

ball club, made a modest

contribution, 1.5p up at 225.5p.

by an upbeat Granada share-

holders' meeting, which sent

the shares surging 55p to

1,151.5p. It described trading as

"very positive" . However, the

group denied market talk of a

bid for Whitbread, up 11p to

909.5p. Chief executive Charles

Allen said: "Whitbread is defi-

Ladbroke, providing Rank's

chief executive, led the Footsie

leader board, cantering 14.5p

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, pence

650 WHITBREAD

600 FMAMJ JASONDJF

The more enthusiastic

have emerged at a better time

is betting on a share flotation

fell 72.7 points to 5,940.3, end-

ing a three-day winning streak.

index, up in the last seven trad-

ing sessions, took a breather,

falling 2.1 to 5,213.2. Still, the

territory, advancing 12.7 to

2,182.5p. Once again turnover

was heavy nudging 1.2 billion

374.5p as the fall in the impor-

tant premium air traffic figures

man added another 21.5p to

executive Vernon Sankey,

prospects of a bid.

which is seen as improving

Trust, the newspaper pub-

lisher, becomes a Footsie con-

stituent today. It has, as

Daily Mail & General

British Airways rose 16p to

Footsie, after an early gain,

next month.

nitely not on our agenda."

higher to 243p.

1150-

1100-

1050-

1000

950

900

850 :

800

Old English struggled to get a leisure atmosphere could not

£30.5m at 330p a share but for bookie William Hill, which

before it gets under way. The Even the ebullient mid cap

ed value turking on the stock small cap index was in positive

CBI gloom, and that consumer narrowed, and Reckitt & Col-

other influences behind the 891.5p on the sudden departure

leisure revival. The prospect of of well compensated chief

Sentiment was also helped

Manchester United, de-

shade firmer at 207.5p.

year's lows.

INVESTMENT

**RECKITT & COLMAN: AT A GLANCE** 

Market value:E3.6bn, share price 891.5p (+20.5p)

95 96 97

2.3

80.8

21.2

pence

1200 -

1000 -

2.3 2.2

57.7 53.1

23.4 24.0

Share price

# Reckitt at a turning point

Trading record

Pre-tax profits (£m)

Profit by region

North

America

Africa/ Middle East

Earnings per share (p)

Dividends per share (p)

Year to December 1997, £m

Turnover (£bn)

IS IT NOW time to start re- BY NIGEL COPE appraising the investment attractions, or otherwise, of Reckitt & Colman?

The bousehold products group, whose brands include Harpic and Dettol, parted company with its chief executive, Vernon Sankey, on Tuesday just three months after a disastrous profits warning. The shares shot up 50p on the news and rose another 16p to 886p yesterday as the market senses that this company could be at

another turning point. It is four years since Reckitt paid £1bn for the US group L&F, the maker of Lysol disinfectant, and sold off other assets such as Colmans mustard. City experts now see one of two things happening there could be a hardening of the existing strategy, but with a sharper and more responsive view on costs and market changes, or a

predator could launch a bid. Few expect a radical change of strategy, and the company indicated as much on Tuesday. It will remain focused on a core of key brands that are number live. Sceptics say Reckitt is too one or two in their sectors, small to tough it out with

safe the view in some quarters is that the group should con-Sage, the computer group. scored a 77.5p gain to 2,040p, a peak, after raising £66.6m through a placing by BT Alex.Brown. The investment

**Cariton Communications** firmed 25p to 631p as Lehman

acquired for £88m.

house sold the shares at

1,910p. A US group is being

expected, been given a berth following the BTR merger

with Siebe. Daily Mail ordinary

shares celebrated with a

337.5p jump to 3,275p and the

On their last day as sepa-

rate entities, BTR added 4.75p

to 133.75p and Siebe 10p to

250p. There are hopes that the

new engineering combine, to be called BTR Siebe, will

attract a raft of favourable cir-

culars as analysts connected

with the merger become free

to issue their observations

Imperial Chemical In-

dustries, year's figures today,

fell 26.5p to 518p. Depressed

profits of £315m are expected, and although the dividend is

sider cutting the payment.

and profit estimates

"A" shares 356p to 3,452p.

THE ENGINEER Scotswood Industries is the latest to be the subject of a reverse takeover

The AIM-traded company is baying Midas Data Communications, involved in providing vehicle location systems, and has taken an option on a similar operation. It is placing shares for £1.65m.

The engineering businesses are being sold to their managements for around £1m. Scotswood shares were suspended at 11.5p. They were 21.5p in October

Brothers remained positive. and BP Amoco gained 10p to upgrade. Takeover speculation was

still rife. The engineer Weir, attracting US interest, gained 9.5p to 304p, and the chemical materials maker Scapa rose 14.5p to 124.5p in busy trading on talk that an aggressive strike was imminent. BICC, the cable and construction group, was back in the limelight with a 4p advance to 78p, and House of Fraser, the department stores chain, hardened 5.5p to 92p in brisk trading as

speculative activity returned. Alexander Russell, a maker of concrete products, hardened 29.5p to 120p after admitting takeover talks were taking place. Sedgemoor, which distributes electronic components, gained 6p to 45p; it reported it had received "a number of preliminary proposals" from rivals. But it seems the deals on offer are not good enough to obtain the support of the Sedgemoor

board. Engineer Energy Techpique fell 0.5p to 21.5p after a warning that it may go private because of the poor environment for small companies.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.1 billion SEAQ TRADES: 79,052 GILTS INDEX: 116.29 -0.24 Associate City Editor

emerging markets, particularly m Asia and Latin America. It is a similar strategy to Unilever's, but the problem at Reckitt & Colman has been some bad hick and some mistakes in implementation

base in Asia quickly enough following the economic crisis there, and it was slow to adapt to the shift among US retailers towards just-in-time relationships with suppliers: this meant it was hit harder than rivals by the subsequent destocking. Both were key reasons behind Reckitt's profits warning in November Of course, trading has been tough

Where now? Talk of a bid is

It failed to address the cost

inevitable as the company is vulnerable without a chief executive, and the shares are still well off their peak, even after the rise of the past two But this ignores two points. One is that, although size is not days. Possible predators include Unilever, Procter & a prerequisite for success in Gamble and Colgate Palmothese markets, Reckitt has top brands such as Dettol, Harpic, Mr Sheen and Wizard in house-

counter medicines it has Disprin and Lemsip. These are all top brands in their respective

This might make the group an attractive morsel for a larger player, but this may not be the

Tarmac demerger may

time. Analysts suggest bidders would want to see more news on current trading when the company reports its full-year results in March before making up their minds on a £4bn bid.

Some say there could be more bad news on trading, prompting a further round of downgrades, and that Reckitt's markets are so tough that sales growth will be difficult to

achieve. "They don't need to dive in now, they can afford to bide their time," one analyst said. According to some sector watchers, the Reckitt & Colman share price is now in no-man'sland. On fundamentals, it is probably overvalued, but it is trading at a discount to break-

up valuations of £10-plus per

share. That could lead smaller investors to take one of two courses. Cautious souls could take advantage of the current spike in the price and sell. Bolder types might look at the multiple of 17 on expected profits of £277m and find the stock interesting. But even they should wait for further news on

### Gartland's view is a lot less rosy add 33% to share value

NOT EVERYONE shares Eddie By Clifford German George's view that the threat of recession has receded. Tony Gartland is chairman of Gartland Whalley & Barker, the AIM-listed investment vehicle specialising in growing companies to the point where they can be floated or bought by venture capitalists. From where he sits at the sharp end of UK business,

matters don't look that good. GWB has three quoted investments. Cirqual, a manufacturer of industrial components, traded successfully but the shares have fallen 60 per cent from their high point last year and a possible takeover bid fell through. Aquarius, which makes goods for the bome improvement market, has been rewarded for an outstanding trading performance last year with a 40 per cent drop in the ing and recruitment company floated in June, has gone

and is now worth less than value last July.

half its flotation price, although GWB booked a useful profit. GWB itself made 11 acquisitions, floated one business and sold another during the year, and profits in the portfolio of quoted and unquoted compa-

nies almost doubled to £25.2m. Even allowing for a big drop profits on disposals and a sharply higher interest charge, profits rose by 17 per cent to £24.2m in the year to the end of October: But the total return on assets, including changes in value of investments, showed a profit of only £8.6m and earnings of 8.42p, down from £21.2m

and 21.43p the previous year. Mr Gartland feels there are bargains to be picked up in current market conditions, but admits there is little scope for taking profits by floating companies in the portfolio. GWB to be completed in six months shares closed down 12.5p at steadily downhill ever since 94.5p, little more than half their

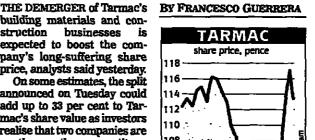
building materials and construction businesses is expected to boost the company's long-suffering share price, analysts said yesterday.

On some estimates, the split announced on Tuesday could add up to 33 per cent to Tarmac's share value as investors realise that two companies are worth more than one entity.

Industry experts believe the stock - one of the sector's great underperformers - could go even higher on the back of speculation of a takeover of the two companies. The building materials group would be the more attractive target, but even the low-margin construction group could interest some

large contractors. Mike Betts, building analyst at other materials companies -values Tarmac at about 150p,

compared to 113.25p yesterday. struction business, with profits and John Mowlem the most The building materials unit set to be £38m and a lower mul-



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will be by far the more valuable of the two. According to Mr Betts, putting 1999 operating profit estimates of £181m on a On a purely financial basis, multiple of nine - in line with between £1.5bn and £1.7bn. A similar exercise on the con-

January

tiple of seven, gives a value of about £260m. Take off debt of £300m and other minor items. and the value of the total group comes out at over £1.4bn. This translates to 150p per share. with about 120p accounted for by building materials and more than 20p by construction.

However, most experts agree that further upside could be provided by takeover action. David Taylor at Teather & Greenwood said: "The split will make a takeover of the building materials business more likely. The contracting arm has been essentially a poison pill."

The list of potential bidders is topped by Aggregate Industries. Others include France's Lafarge, the Irish group CRH and Australian giant Pioneer. In the UK, RMC, Hanson

and the cement makers Blue terested. The contracting arm could be taken out, with Amec likely buyers.

### ICI chief's trivial pursuit

BRENDAN O'NEILL has been confirmed as chief executive of ICI, having completed his probationary period since joining last May as chief operating retirement as chairman of Sir succeeded by Charles Miller Smith, the former chief me the job," he adds.

executive. Mr O'Neill insists his number one priority is "to press ahead with ICI's established strategy of turning itself into a speciality chemicals company". He has his work out out; its current market cap is less than what ICI paid Unilever for its speciality chemicals side. The exact size of Mr O'Neill's task will be confirmed today when its

results are announced. Anyway, Mr O'Neill looks like the man for the job. A keen Guinness drinker – he really made his name heading Guinness Brewing from 1993 to 1998 the native of St Helens is also

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

officer. This is prompted by the a Rugby League fanatic and obsessive about pop music triv-Ronald Hampel, who will be ia. "I would like to think, though, that that is not what got

### Poor analysts

SALARIES IN the Square Mile are more varied than you might think. While around a fifth of all analysts earn over £150,000 a year, another fifth have to struggle by on less than £50,000.

Tucked away in the latest Reuters Survey of European Larger Companies, I also learn that over half of analysts work between 61 and 80 hours a week, with about 5 per cent putting in over 80 hours.

Gavin Casey, chief executive of the London Stock Exchange, firm Newton & Co has thrown

handed out prizes to the toprated people yesterday at the Drapers' Hall in the City. The contest for best individ-

ual find manager was a draw between Robert Tann of Capital Group and Mark Ferguson of Schroder Investment Management. Fidelity Investment Management won best fund management group, while Merrill Lynch ran away with three titles: best broker sales team. best broker research and best Regal revamp broker execution.

### Moving story

"MOVING OFFICE is nearly as bad as moving house," as far as \_ Newton is concerned. The affable head of the City PR

known as the mouthpiece for

Arthur Andersen's insolvency experts. These used to include John Talbot, who wound up the private side of Robert Maxwell's envy of his former liquidation colleagues, having been made global head of corporate finance at the accountancy giant.

in his lot with larger rivals

Grandfield to create Grand-

field Newton, and moving his

files over has been traumatic.

Mr Newton is perhaps best

Mr Newton himself has some filial competition – his son Richard Newton left the Sunday Telegraph last autumn to help launch an innovative screensaver company.

REGAL HOTELS, which owns 117 mid-market hotels in the UK, has rejigged its board to boost its expansion. It has brought in a new chairman, Professor Arthur KC Li, who is currently vice-chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The company has also dent.co.uk

is currently managing director of Kerry Investment Management, a Hong Kong company. There are also two new non-

promoted David Masters to be

executive deputy chairman. He

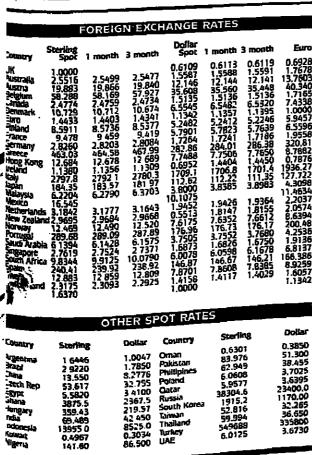
execs: Baroness Wilcox, the former chairman of the National Consumer Council. and Tan Sri Dr Kay Peng empire. Now Mr Talbot is the Khoo, a Malaysian industrialist.

### Microfiche catch

BRITAIN'S LARGEST online business information provider. ICC Information, has bought the microfiche library owned by Companies House in City Road. London.

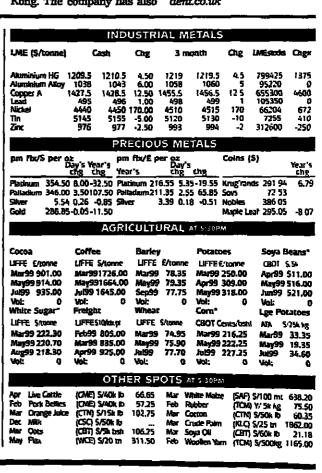
Alistair Pauline, group managing director of ICC, points out that the 35.500 kilos of microfiche contain the information equivalent of more than a million kilos of paper, and equals the weight of approximately 40,000 City traders. The microfiche will be moved from London to ICC's Cardiff facility in August.

E-mail: j.willcock@indepen-



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| aly                    | 2.99<br>0.29 | 0.00            | 0.36            |                        | 0.69          | 0.04         |                | 0.17          | 2.42               | 0.35         |
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boree as marginal favourites, purely because they play the French at home rather than in Paris, but the prurient politics of the last few weeks have done them no favours; given that they are now about as popular among the Celts as Bernard Manning would have been at Greenham Common, the red roses will not survive the next couple of humdinging months without losing a petal or two.

When Jim Telfer, the Scotland coach, described this 78th and final Five Nations as "a more open contest than in recent years, when it has been something of a two-horse race", he hit the nail squarely on the head. Rather too squarely for comfort, perhaps. This one could just develop into a four-horse race: that is to say, a breathless tussle for European supremacy involving everyone except the Scots, whose shirts should carry the words "rank outsider" rather than a sponsor's logo. Maybe there is a company called Rank Outsider with some marketing money going

### **VE NATIONS** FIXTURES

### 6 FEBRUARY

Ireland v France ..... Scotland v Wales .....Murrayfield

20 FEBRUARY

### England v Scotland....Twickenham Wales v Ireland ......Wembley

6 MARCH Ireland v England ...

### France v Wales ... 20 MARCH

England v France .....Twickenham Scotland v Ireland .....Murrayfield

10 APRIL

Wales v England .....Wembley

spare. If so, its managing director should contact Murrayfield for a

marriage made in heaven. Had Telfer been able to pick and mix from a full squad in advance of this weekend's opening skirmish with a confident Welsh outfit in Edinburgh, the chances of a first fiveway split since 1973 - and only the sec-

ond in the history of the tournament

 might have been less infinitesimal. Frustratingly, he has been denied that privilege. Shorn of his bulkiest prop, his bardest flanker and his most exciting new threequarter, Old Granite Features once again finds himself up the Tweed without a claymore for a paddle. The Scots are 50-1 for this year's title. Defeai on Saturday, a distinct possibility, will attach a second unwanted zero to

those odds. By contrast, the remaining quartet appear bright-eyed, bushy-tailed and bristling with aggressive intent. None more so, indeed, than the Irish, who are racing towards this weekend's frenzied tilt at the Grand Slammers of France in the redhanded slipstream of Ulster, the new European champions.

There is not much wrong with a pack capable of replacing Malcolm O'Kelly, the form lock of 1999, with Jeremy Davidson, the form lock of 1997; in Keith Wood, Paul Wallace, Andy Ward and a rejuvenated Eric



France v Scotland ..................Paris France keep possession to thrash hapless Wales en route to the Grand Slam in 1998. This year's Five Nations' Championship is expected to be a comparatively close contest

Celtic renaissance remains fragile. A former have a pack, but no three-

forwards perfectly capable of mixing it with the best and living to give full rein to the blarney.

You might paint a similarly optimistic picture for the Welsh, whose own version of the Messiah, Graham Henry arrived to change the world before Christmas rather than during it. The New Zealander is as

he takes no long-odds liberties with his selection, he tells his charges precisely what to do in every imaginable situation and, most importantly of all, he makes them believe. Before Henry, the Red Dragon was a walking inferiority complex that spent rather more time on the psychiatrist's couch than on the training paddock.

single rough afternoon against either of the tournament grown-ups could send rugby's arch romantics straight back to the padded cell with their phobias running riot. And it could very easily happen, even though the Irish have both France and England on their own mudheap and Wales feel

quarter line worthy of celebration; the latter can boast a lethal back division. but no tight five to load the bullets. One close shave against the Springboks and victory in a devalued European Cup do not add up to a

spring, let alone a summer. Heaven knows, it is high time the

won eight on the trot against Scotland,

nine of the last 11 against Ireland and eight of the last 10 against Wales, while the French have won 24 of their last 30 championship games against the twilit Celts. Such predictability leaves even this wonderfully social, feel-good tournament teetering on the brink of unsustainability; the Scots, unable to sharp as the stude on an Aucklan- Six months on, it has got itself a life. increasingly comfortable in their Five Nations regained the initiative pull in a quorum for the reigning world

fill Murrayfield this weekend either, were it not for the traditional ale-propelled migration from the valleys of Wales. How strange that the loudest voices on an organising committee that temporarily decided it could do without England should come from the weakest link in the Five Nations chair.

In short, the northern hemisphere game badly needs the Celts to start playing their rugby with the same degree of enthusiasm they bring to their politics. The World Cup, justeight hectic months away, will be a major yawn if the big five - South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, France and England - put 50 points plus on everyone else. To succeed in an increasingly congested sporting landscape requires contenders and crowds. What it does not remotely require is a half-empty Murrayfield or a third-full Lansdowne Road. That, sadly, is what it will get if the Scots and Irish, in particular, do not front up on the field

And there is no better time than now to begin the fronting-up process; wall-to-wall television (even allowing for the satellite blight on the big Twickenham occasions) and fi2m of Lloyds-TSB money should set the underdogs tearing away from the traps. The rugby world has always tuned en masse into the Five Nations, but those in the real world south of the equator have spent the last few years viewing it as a comedy rather than a drama. It is down

### TEAM-BY-TEAM GUIDE TO THE FIVE NATIONS

### ENGLAND

Clive Wooodward has a pack – by God, he has a pack - but Will Greenwood's likely absence from the crucial inside centre slot is the equivalent of a poke in the eye with a pitch-

fork, especially as Phil de Glanville is also laid up with injury. The coach has a delicate decision to make in perming two from Mike Catt, Paul Grayson and lariny Wilkinson, the three surviving contenders for what the New Zealanders call the "five-eighths" positions. Elsewhere, though, Woodward is in clover. Martin Johnson is on the warpath in the second row, Richard Hill is playing quite beautifully on the flank and Kyran Bracken is underlining his status as a scrum-half of the highest quality. England also have a relatively gentle introduction to the tournament - the Scots at Twickeniam - before the serious stuff starts

in Dublin. Prospects: Good enough, just, to take a new-look French side on home soil. The likely champions.

### The Tricolores are a little red-faced just at the moment, what with their de-feat by Australia before

peated embarrassments inflicted on their state-of-the-art club Skrela likes to look forward rather than back, aware that some of last season's Grand Slam contributors might not make it to the World Cup, he pulled a new threequarter line out of thin air and used it to kick a few Italian backsides in Genoa at the weekend. Emile Ntamack's return to optimum form is not great news for the home nations and, although they did not show it at Stradey Park or Ravenhill during the European Cup, the Stade Français strike axis of Gomes, Dourthe and Comba is not the worst. Up front, they are only too recognisable: Califano, Tournaire, the Lievremont

brothers, Magné... help. **Prospects:** Dodgy goal-kicking may cost them a third Slam. Runners-up to England.

### IRELAND

Can the island live up to the province? Almost certainly not; unlike the European Cup, which Ulster seized in such bracing fashion last Saturday, the Five Nations is not subject to an

English boycott. For all the feistiness bubbling away in their pack and the home advantage they hold over the two tournament favourites, the Irish are thinking more in terms of victo-ry over their fellow Celts. "We've set ourselves a goal of third place," says Warren Gatland, their coach. Kidolo-gy? No, just a realistic appraisal of Ireland's current station in life. They will be the hardest, most physical and com-fortably the most spirited team in the championship but, Conor O'Shea aside, they are short of class out wide. A deluge of up-and-unders might occasionally do for a Toulouse or a Colomiers, but it does not cut much ice at international level.

**Prospects:** Fourth, which would be more satisfying than last year but not quite satisfying enough.

### SCOTLAND

It never rains, but it

lashes down with a

vengeance. Scotland's

domestic game has been cut to ribbons, its administration is riven with mistrust, the national side has lost three of its most influential players to injury and this season's away games are in London and Paris. Thanks very much, Back in November, after the Scots had given the Springboks a hurry-up in the first half of the Test at Murrayfield, Jim Telfer was in danger of smiling for the first time since the end of the 1997 Lions tour. Umpteen injuries down the road, the coach is in misery-guts mode once more. Scott Murray and Doddie Weir may earn themselves some brownle points in the second row and, if Tom Smith's body stops playing him up for a second, they will be able to boast the championship's most awkward scrummager. And that, sadly, is about

Prospects: Murrayfield used to be a stirring venue. The only stirring it will do this season is with a wooden spoon.

### Vernon Pugh, Glanmor Grif-fiths and the Welsh Rugby Union will not want to hear this, but the joint rebellion by Cardiff and Swansea has

done Graham Henry and his national side an immense favour. Exposed week in, week out to club rugby of genuine quality, the refusentk play-ers – Jon Humphreys, Darren Morris, Colin Charvis, Mark Taylor, Scott Gibbs have at last discovered the virtue of consistency. They are playing out of their skins, their confidence is right up there at cloud level and, all things being equal. they should be in a position to ask serious questions of the best. Sadily, things have recently become unequal. The loss of Craig Quinnell and Gareth Thomas to injury deprives Henry of two of his biggest hitters and he will find the first hole, in particular, wickedly difficult to fill. A good loose combination and a nifty back division, yes. But up at the sharp

Prospects: Likely to prove the best of the Celts, but just as likely to go down big time in Paris. Third.

### Ntamack assumes the Blanco role Signposts to greater glory mer, reclaims the loose-head position tating last season, but a shoulder re- WHEN IT comes to World Cup indi- A decent Five Nations campaign can forge

EMILE NTAMACK has been labour- BY CHRIS HEWETT ing under the weight of the "new Serge Blanco" tag ever since he made his international debut against Wales five years ago.

When he emerges into the Lansdowne Road bearpit to face Ireland in this Saturday's opening match of the Five Nations' Championship. the most elegant attacking runner in French rugby will finally fulfill the expectations of his countrymen by donning the No 15 shirt once graced by the favourite son of Biarritz.

Ntamack's move from wing to fullback mirrors Blanco's positional shift of the early 1980s and Jean-Claude Skrela, the national coach, believes it will be the making of his new-look back division. Two threequarters, Franck Comba and Thomas Lombard, are new to Five Nations' rugby - they replace

in last season's Grand Slam campaign - and their inexperience swung the vote towards Ntamack.

Arthur Gomes, the versatile Stade Français regular who performed perfectly adequately at full-back in recent Tests, would have won a reprieve had Ntamack not recovered so quickly from the knee injury he suffered during last weekend's victory over Italy in Genoa. As it is, Gomes finds himself beaten on two fronts: firstly by Ntamack and also by Philippe Bernat-Salles, who retains his place on the right wing. Up front, the French remain loyal

to the same pack that gave the forwards of the home unions what might accurately be described as a jolly good seeing to during last year's competition. Christian Califano, in-Stephane Glas and Christophe Do- jured for the first half of the season minici, who performed so brilliantly after undergoing surgery last sum- side-half from Castres was devas-

from Sylvain Marconnet and resumes his front-row partnership with Franck Tournaire and the captain, Raphael Ibanez. In the back row, the Lievremont brothers, Marc and Thomas, hold off the challenge of Philippe Benetton and play at blindside flank and No 8 respectively.

"We wanted to strike a balance between speed and power," Jo Maso, the team manager, pronounced. "We intend to expand and vary our game, but we know that the Irish will present a formidable challenge." To that end, Maso and his colleagues have packed their bench with a rough, tough breed of players: Benetton, Marc Dal Maso and Thierry Cleda are not exactly soft touches.

As expected, Thomas Castaignède is back after a few months alongside Califano on the casualty slab. The extravagantly gifted out-

build left his appearance in this cators, the Five Nations' Champitournament in the lap of the gods. onship is hardly the stuff of a Fortunately for the Tricolores, he bookmaker's dreams; after all, none came through a 50-minute gallop in of the sides most likely to lift the Webb Genoa with both his new shoulder Ellis Trophy in Cardiff on 6 Novemand his old bag of tricks intact.

tain, Bryan Redpath, with an ankle can act as a launchpad of sorts. injury suffered while playing for Edin a long line of setbacks for Jim territories of Australia and New Jamie Mayer, Matthew Proudfoot off the back of a first Grand Slam in

Ety Of physical conditions.

PRANCE TEAM (v Ireland, Lansdowne Road, Dublin, Sarundey): E Niamack P Bemat-Sales, R Dourthe, F Comba, T Lombard: T Cassalgnete, P Carbonneau: O Magne. T Liememont, M Liememont, F Pelous. O Brouzet, F Tournaire, R Ibanez (capt), C Califano. Replacements: C Laussucq, A Gomes, D Aucagne, P Benetton, T Cleda. S Marconnet, M Dal Maso.

ber are involved in the tournament. Scotland, who play Wales at Mur- Nevertheless, recent history proves rayfield on Saturday, are anything but that a decent run in rugby's oldest and intact. The withdrawal of their cap-most outrageously hyped competition

In 1987, when the inaugural World inburgh Reivers, was only the latest Cup was fought out in the jet-lag Telfer, the coach, who now intends to Zealand, France unexpectedly beat name a starting XV this afternoon. the Wallabies to a place in the final and Gordon Simpson, all certainties, six years. Daniel Dubroca's side did will also be missing owing to a variety of physical conditions.

at years Dank Ca Sale unit in through Europe with anyety of physical conditions. thing like the panache shown by the 1998 Tricolores under Raphael Ibanez, another booker from the deep-south heartland of French

World Cup contenders. By Chris Hewett most handsome of their winning

margins. But the experience served to weld together their notoriously disparate parts, for 13 of the team who won at Twickenham featured in the Eden Park climax with the All Blacks four months later.

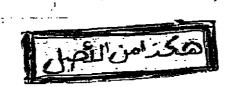
England experienced something very similar in 1991. Having sewn up their first Slam in more than a decade by out-muscling the French on an extraordinary day at Twickenham, they promptly rode the Yellow Brick Road all the way to a World Cup final against the Australians that

Once more, the bulk of the work was performed by the same players: 12 of those who saw off Serge Blanco rugby; indeed, their seven-point vicand company in front of a delirious match with Scotland is only 16 days tory over the Welsh in Paris was the band of middle Englanders in away.

March would go on to do battle with the Wallabies in November.

There was another England Grand Slam before the last World Cup in South Africa four years ago, although a big bloke by the name of Lomu ensured they would not read the final in Johannesburg. Lawrence Dailaglio's men fulfill the bookies' expectations and do the business in this season's tournament, it is not beyond the realms of possibility that Lomu will devastate them once again when New Zealand

visit Twickenham in a pool match of supreme importance in the second week in October. But that collision is still eight months distant. The Calcutta Cup



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# Another fine for England Stirs pot

HOORAY, MORE politics. Just when you thought the Five Nations' Championship was finally about to take its rightful place at the top of the rugby agenda, the men in suits decided to stage another publicity hijack. With its usual impeccable timing the International Board yesterday spaced a £30,000 fine on the Ragby Football Union, threatened to increase the damage by pressed the bizarre hope that "the distrust between the RFU and their fellow IB members was now at an end". Fat chance.

The financial penalties agreed by a four-man IB disciplinary committee resulted from a meeting - or a "kangaroo court", depending on who you speak to - held in Dublin a week before Christmas. Two charges were laid against the RFU: firstly, that it had failed to take sufficiently stringent action against the Allied Dunbar Premiership clubs over their rebel matches with Cardiff and Swansea and secondly, that it had not backed the IB in its European Union scrap with those same clubs, who are seeking to establish commercial rights under EU competition law.

A guilty verdict on the first compt cost the RFU £60,000 in

This second conviction is far more inflammatory, how-



Hanley: England call-up

ever: the IB is demanding £30,000 immediately - or, at least, within seven days of the completion and failure of any appeal - from an organisation that is already staring down the barrel of a £2.5m deficit for the

nt business year. Tuere was no response from Iwickenham last night, but it try. They include Tim Stimpson, was just possible to hear a faint groaning sound from an increasingly impoverished

boardroom. "As a senior foundation member, the RFU has a vital role to play in the stabilisation, governance and development of the game and it must work within the democratic structure of the IB to achieve these aims," said Stephen Baines, the board's chief executive. "We have the right to expect honourable and open conduct from our members and we require them to support decisions reached collectively." The disciplinary committee delegates, who decreed that the RFU had "deliberately misled and misinformed" the board over s response to the clubs' EU application, also decided

BY CHRIS HEWEIT

that Twickenham should meet the costs of the hearing - a total certain to exceed £10,000.

At least England's players, as opposed to England's administrators, were given a momentary turn on centre stage yesterday as Clive Woodward announced another £50,000, and then ex- a 30-strong training squad in preparation for the Calcutta Cup match in London on Saturday fortnight. It was a longrange sort of selection, given that the coach was in Australia on a recce mission in advance of this summer's World Cup camp, but the familiarity of the party meant there would be no music for him

> With two influential midfield figures, Will Greenwood and Phil de Glanville, and his most powerful young prop. Phil Vickery, injured and unavailable, Woodward has taken the opportunity to restore Barrie-Jon Mather, the former rugby league centre from Sale, and Will Green, the Wasps tight head, to the wider squad, which meets up for a two-day get-together next Monday As expected, he will also cast a tutored eye over Steve Hanley, the outsized Sale wing who has been scoring Premier-

ship tries for a pastime of late. The only other new face belongs to Neil McCarthy, the Gloucester hooker, who is fast closing in on his former Kingsholm club-mate, Phil Greening as the main challenger to

Richard Cockerill In many ways, the more interesting of yesterday's Twickenham selections was a 40-man A squad, which also gathers for 48-nour session next week. I'wo of the London Irish front row, Neal Hatley and Richard Kirke. are included, along with their midfield club-mate, Nick Burrows - an acknowledgement of the Exiles' exhilarating run of form in both league and cup.

Remarkably, 10 of last summer's tourists in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa are now so far out of the representative running that they are not considered to be among the 73 leading performers in the counonce a great white hope of English rugby, and Jos Baxendell, who faced both the All Blacks and the Springboks last summer but currently finds it difficult to get a game for Sale. Dominic Chapman, Josh Lewsey, Peter Richards and Lewis Moody are also out on their ears, as is Richard Pool-Jones, the Stade

MILIBRU FOOF-JORIES, THE STAGE
Français flanker.

MEGAMO SOUAD (for training on 8/9
February): Backs: Ni Beal (Northampton).

M Perry (Bath), D Rass (Sale), T Undermood (Newcasie), D Lager (Hartenins), S
Hanley (Sale), A Healey (Lidenser), I Guacott (Bath), B J Misther (Sale), J Millahson (Newcasie), M Catt (Bath), P Grayson
(Northampton), K Saraban (Sarcus), M
Deurson (Northampton). Forwards: J
Leonard (Hartenins), G Rimmeree Releas. (Northampton), K Bracken (Saracens), M Dewston (Northampton). Foresards: J Leonards (Hategains), G Rosentree (Liciaster), D Gerforth (Liciaster), W Green (Mass), R Coderell (Liciaster), M McCardey (Glaucester), P Greening (Sale), T Rodder (Northampton), D Greencock (Saracens), M Johnson (Liciaster), G Archer (Newastle), B Clarke (Richmond), L Dallaglio (Mass), M Corry (Liciaster), R HM (Saracens), M Back (Leicester).

England A squad, Digest, page 27

# Stewart orders lock-in after Sri Lanka spinners triumph

Sri Lanka's Romesh Kaluwitharana takes off in a vain attempt to catch England's Vince Wells in Sydney yesterday

ENGLAND, DESPERATE to be professional to the end, held a team meeting in a locked dressing-room for an hour after being defeated in Sydney yesterday. It is only to be hoped that it was both more entertaining and constructive than the match of some seven hours

ing, it was a good healthy discussion, constructive. This was a match we should have won and didn't," said Alec Stewart. who was rested from the match which Sri Lanka won by 11 runs and did so largely by the use of 38 overs of spin bowling. Since the match had been reduced by heavy rain to 44 overs a side, this represented 86 per cent of the innings total, which is almost certainly a record in a one-day international and sound evidence that spinning

can be utterly tedious. The romantics would probably have it otherwise but by the end there must have been many in the ground who were seriously thinking of starting a club for the revival of justabove-military medium seam. During the less enchanting stages of the contest, and these were in danger of overload, it was possible to think that oneday internationals would never have been invented if their designers had imagined them to

be like this. It was difficult to blame the players for the nature of the contest. Perhaps they might have jollied things along a little more but they were shackled by the pitch. It was grassless, it turned outrageously, it did not bounce, it was hopeless. One-day cricket is

BY STEPHEN BRENKLEY

Sri Lanka 181-7 England 170-9 Sri Lanka win by 11 runs

often castigated for allowing the mand outright rejection, nor was it a convincing letter of apthat close, high scoring matches are artificially engineered. But this was worse because, while it might have rewarded high batting skills, as Aravinda de Silva demonstrated, it also required a high degree of good

Not all matches can be the stuff of dreams but the two remaining at Sydney in the Carlton & United Series deserve a better surface. The result made no difference to the outcome of the qualifying table of the triangular tournament.

England and Australia are already sure of meeting in the three-match finals series next week after a sequence of poor and unimaginative Sri Lankan

performances. But England had kept insisting that there was still much to play for, that this was still an international match and that, if they changed their team, it was to have a closer look at other men playing for places in the World Cup. If the subsequent loss did not dewas it a convincing letter of ap-

England made five changes from the side which had so handsomely and energetically beaten Sri Lanka in Perth last week. Alec Stewart, the captain, Alan Mulially and Robert Croft were missing their first games of the competition. Thus, opportunities were provided for Mark Alleyne, Vince Wells, Ashlev Giles, John Crawley and, for the first time after 107 days on tour and 13 international

plication.

matches, Ben Hollioake. Perhaps England could be accused of misreading the pitch, but they were not alone. The linguist does not exist who could have read this. Nobody thought it was an outrageous

SYDNEY SCOREBOARD

decision when they won the toss and asked Sri Lanka to bat. They were probably hedging their bets. Sri Lanka, themselves weakened with the absence through

the presence of De Silva. It was only his second match of the series and, while he did not make light of the conditions, he was not ensnared by them

De Silva's 52 came at a run nings of iar superior virtuosity. this showed him for the hatsman he is. He tucked off his legs, found the gaps, kept the board going. Romesh Kahrwitharana also scored a half century, his second of the tournament, but it was not of the same calibre.

A target of 182 was what England might have expected to pursue. They started boldly enough with a first-wicket partnership of 53. It was neither rapid nor faultless, but there

about it. When Wells was out, Nick Knight proceeded to play himself out of form. There were occasions when

he was clearly saying to himself injury of two of their most im- that this would not do and he atportant players, Muttiah Mura- tempted to break out. But it did litharan and Sanath Jayasuriya, not last. Knight is a cavalier, and were somewhat consoled by the was made to look like a the presence of De Silva. It roundlead.

Sri Lanka gave Chaminda Vaas four overs at the start of the innings and two more later, but otherwise used only spin of various hues, beginning with De Silva and embracing Tilan a ball and, if he has played in- Samaraweera, playing his first match of the competition, the fifth of his career - and taking 3 for 24 and the man of the match award.

A measure of England's difficulties was their progress between 48 and 73. It was entirely in singles. That might have been acceptable had there been more of them. But as Stewart suggested later - after the team meeting - there were too many scoreless balls.

Knight was fifth out at 119, having made 58, his first half century of the tournament in 109 balls, a rate as untypical as his lean run. The rest perished trying to hit boundaries and confirmed only how difficult this task was.

If it was an unattractive match, it was also sad for the younger Hollioake. Having waited so long for his chance. he shared the new ball with Darren Gough, but the pitch suited neither his pace nor direction. He then batted at nine when it was too late and was run out. He deserved to make his feelings clear at the team

### Gough gives tourists initiative

BY SPENCER WRIGHT in New Plymouth

England U-19 285 & 47-1 New Zealand U-19 202

THE DOUBLE Durham spin attack of Graeme Bridge and Michael Gough turned the first Under-19 Test England's way on the second day here yesterday, as the pair took four New Zealand wickets between them for only two runs after tea.

The Kiwis, replying to England's first innings total of 285. collapsed from 200 for 6 to 202 all out in the space of three overs. At stumps the tourists were 47 for 1 in reply having lost the opener lan Flanagan, but were leading by 130.

With injuries to pacemen Richard Logan and Joe Tucker, it was the front-line spinners. Bridge and Richard Dawson who dominated the attack

After tea, the England captain, Gough, decided it was time for his own off-spin to be given a twick and he induced a mistimed oull shot from Peter McGlashan, who was caught at midwicket by Ian Bell for 39.

In the next over, Bridge had Michael Hendry caught by Dawson, Bruce Martin was caught by Bell off Gough soon after, and the following ball, Gillespie skied Bridge to extra cover where Bell took his fourth catch of the innings.

Only Michael Papps, who fell to Matt Bulbeck for 64, and Brad Patton, who made a stylish 36, showed any attacking flair for the hosts.

ENGLAND U-19 - Second A Govern por duit

Patti: 1-28.
To Bare M A Carberry, R K J Dawson, J K Maunders, J R Tucker, M P Butbeck, R J Logan, M A Wallace, G R Bridge.
Bowling: Shaw 3 0 18 0; Franklin 3 1 6 0; Gillespie 3 1 7 1; Martin 3 1 6 0; Jonsen 1 0 5 0. 100 100 100 100 100

### Rain makes progress slow

By Mark Hargreaves

PERSISTENT RAIN restricted play on the second day of the unofficial Test between England A and Zimbabwe A to nine overs and five balls yesterday. It took Glamorgan's Darren

Thomas only three overs before he found the outside edge as left-handed Andy Blignaut, on six drove at a ball of full length to give wicket-keeper Chris Read an excellent catch high to his left in front of first slip.

Melvyn Betts, who saw a catch put down off his bowling at third slip on the first day, was once again the unlucky bowler when Bryan Strang edged between first and second slips. Andrew Flintoff touched but could not hold on to a sharp chance. Zimbabwe are on 95 for 6, though there must be a doubt as to whether the rain will allow any further play today.
FIRST A TEST MATCH (Harare):
Zimbabwe A 95-6 (S D Thomas 4-27) v
England A.

### **Blow whistle** on amateurs

or e-mail to sport@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity enters the Premier League, what has improved? Grounds, in line with the Taylor report; £20,000, the outlay would be Premier League games, as only £800,000 per year. Surely, foreign players offer a small price to pay in a very something different; English professional game. players, as foreign players GARY JACOB teach our players how to play, St Catherine's College, Refereeing standards, as,

Oxford

Managers such as Ferguson. Wenger, Strachan and Gullit, and pundits like Brooking and Hansen voice doubt on refereeing dec ns. Everything has tur professional except

Sir: As more and more money

the feree. L: the Football Association so arrogant to believe that unprofessional part-timers. no different from 30 years ago, are adequate to cope with the modern game?

With four referees (assistants and substitute) per game, and 10 games per week, and even allowing for a modest annual salary of

### **Bowling balls**

Sir. I was somewhat bemused by the views of Tom Saul and Mat Coward (Letters, 27 January) concerning the recent furore over Muralitharan's bowling action. Mr Coward's comments on the "British attitude" to sport could certainly not be applied to David Lloyd, whose petulant and spiteful attack after Murali had bedazzled England's batsmen last summer smacked more than

a little of sour grapes. Can I also detect a sense of smug superiority from the British media over recent events Down Under?

OK, so Australia may well have the best cricket team in the world and they can beat England without breaking sweat but their players are dishonest and the officials are racist bullies. It seems the "British attitude" to being substandard these days is to seek refuge in selfrighteousness. JÖSEPH S PIERCY Brighton, E Sussex

### Whip woes

Sir: The Brian Viner interview with Tony McCoy was most readable (27 January). It was also most

revealing to those who abhor the use of the whip. Defending his own

SPORTS LETTERS

Post letters to Sports Desk at 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London £14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. Faxes to 0171 293 2894

whipping, the jockey criticised that of others - "I see marked horses every day and it's not a pretty sight." Do such sights not strengthen the case for a whip ban?

He went on: "I think I've always used the whip in the correct way." So Tony's the only one in step over his suspensions. All the other Tom, Dick and Harrys" - his term for Stewards, Jockey Club, et al - are wrong in his opinion. Perhaps, when he inevitably beats Peter Scudamore's record of winners, he would like to be presented with a golden MAY and JIM BRUNTON

Edinburah

### Panel flannel Ugly truth

Sir: Punters have an extra hazard to overcome when forecasting results for matches on which the Pools Panel is invoked. Instead of guessing the results, they have to work out which way the members will get them wrong.

On the weekend of 23 January, the Panel had opportunities to make four wrong decisions - and scored 100 per cent. They said that Chelsea would lead Oxford at half-time and full-time; the reality was 0-0 and 1-1. No goals at all were predicted for Wolves v Arsenal: the outcome, I-1 at half-time, 1-2 at the final whistle. Anyone who had the correct results may have felt slightly cross. HARVEY COLE Winchester

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### Sir: A letter (27 January)

referred to sport being a source of pleasure... not warfare by other means. Sadly the word sport is quite discredited. We hear much of drug-enhanced performance and the endemic power of money, but baser instincts reveal themselves in excessive triumphalism. If sport is a metaphor for life, then we are finished, as the ugliness portrayed in triumphal gestures and facial masks can only be bettered by the higher primates.

The mass adulation and will to win of Nazi Germany and Nuremberg rallies seem no longer ghosts. If only there was more of the selfmockery of - ironically -Jürgen Klinsmann and his

celebratory dives, then maybe we could regain some perspective. ROBERT FRENCH Kingskerswell, Devon

### Positive bid

Sir: Manchester City Council. as a partner in Manchester's bid for the 2000 Olympic Games, recognises that a successful Games in Sydney is important for sport and vital for the Olympic movement. The Council therefore, wishes the 2000 Olympic organisers in Australia every success.

Should the allegations of majoractice related to the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City lead to further investigations, we have already undertaken to support the British Olympic

Association and the International Olympic Committee in any way we can. We will respond constructively and positively to any requests for information about the bidding process for the 2000 Games

If it is demonstrated that it was influenced by any impropriety, then the City Council will discuss the position with the British Olympic Association and the Government and may consider compensation

The Olympic bidding process, irrespective of outcome, was an important and positive experience for Manchester and the Northwest. It created a legacy which included the National Cycling Centre, Europe's largest indoor arena, and it provided impetus to our stadium plans.

It was also the forerunner of the bidding process which will bring the 2002 Commonwealth Games to England and the city. Councillor RICHARD LEESE Town Hall, Manchester

# Danoli returns to linger in limelight TWO YEARS ago, the chance to see Denoit run sta racecourse in Ireland would not thorous after the line what was a state of the line of

in Ireland would put thousands on to the attendance. Back in 1994, he put a hundred times as much into punters' pockets when he won the Sun Alliance Novices' Hurdle. He opened fetes and received bagfuls of fan mail, like Desert Orchid and Red Rum rolled into a single, brave little Irish package, until the leg injury which almost killed him seemed to stop the bandwagon in its tracks.

This Sunday, though, it could receive a burly push in the general direction of Cheltenham. Danoli will join the field for the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown, his first race since October and a repeat of his victory in the same event entire grandstand to tears. would be enough to send him to the Gold Cup on a wave of cash and optimism.

But like all the cest heroes, Danoli has a flaw. The leg problem which has troubled him for four months is still causing concern, but at 11 years of age,

ably be his last. If it is to remain a serious target, a run on Sun-

day is essential. We didn't intend running him for a good bit (after his seasonal debut] and the Hennessy was always the race we were planning for," Tom Foley, Danoli's trainer, said yesterday.

"We expected to run in the Ericsson Chase at Christmas, only he got a sprain on his hind fetlock and that put us back a and keep him working away even though it wasn't right, and take everything day to

The favourite for Sunday's race is Florida Pearl, who has been the natural heir to Danotwo years ago would reduce the li in Irish racing's affections. He seems sure to start at odds-on. Even a gallant third place despite having fallen at the to racing. same course over Christmas. but many of those who take a short price about him will probably have a small saver on Danoli too, just in case.

Foley, though, offers little encouragement, for the Hen-

Another trainer who suf-

fered a reversal yesterday was

Venetia Williams, who sent out

the hot favourites Jack Tanner

and Silk Vestment to defeat at

Jack Tanner, a top-class

novice hurdler two years ago

but off the course since, was

sent off 1-6 favourite for the

novices' chase and had the as-

RICHARD EDMONDSON

Nap: Cheerful Aspect

(Towcester 3.10)

**NB:** Grooving

(Kelso 4.00)

sistance of McCoy. However, the

10-year-old was very weary up

the home straight as Fighting

Times and Vince Slattery went

on to register a six-length win

Silk Vestments started at 4-6 for the novices' hurdle but

could only manage a one-naced

third, 14 lengths behind Mr

TOWCESTER 2.10

ightenidized 7-4 15-8 13-8 7-4 7-4

textiening Light 6-4 15-8 2-1 7-4 7-4

Solo Guest 10-1 8-1 8-1 8-1 8-1

Saffydougen 20-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1

Chalatanas Gorano20-1 18-1 18-1 18-1 20-1

true Buccameer 40-1 33-1 33-1 33-1 25-1

Denver Bery 40-1 33-1 25-1 33-1 32-1

Junt Bruce 50-1 40-1 50-1 33-1 50-1

Each-way a 60th the ockts, places 1, 2, 3

C Corat 11 William 1-St. 1. Ladreties, S Starley, T Total

8 ran. 4, 10, 7. (winner brown gelding by Landyap out of Done Perfects trained by R Frost at Buchtastleigh for B P Burnerd). Tota: win £1300; places £2.50, £130, £130. DF: £27.70. CSF: £87.50.

4.10; (3m 2f 110yds novice chase)
1. ATAVISTIC \_\_\_\_\_R Durwoody 4-6 fev 

4 mm. 25, dist. (winner bey gelding by Archi-tect out of Sacell trained by P Hobbs at Minehead for Mrs J Emery), Tota: win £150. DF: £170, CSF: £270.

WOLVERHAMPTON

Going: Standard 1.30: 1. ARC (R Perham) 11-10 fax; 2. Scin-tilisting Sound 12-1; 3. Technician 11-4. 11 ran. ½, 2 (F Jordan, Leominster) fote: 5220; £10 £490, £150. DF: £1850. CSF: £1740. Tri-

cast: C32.67.
2.00: 1. PRODIGAL SON (N Polerd) 13-2;
2. Love Opera 2-1 fav: 3. Frederick James 11-4 9 ran. 3½, 1½, (Mrs V Ward, Granthem). Tota: C300; 22:00, E190, E190 DF: 23:00, C3F-5193, Ticast: 54:29, NF; Whiting Kright.
2.30: 1. TROJAN GIRL (T G McLaughin) 4-1; 2. Pride Of Brittom 3-1; 3. Mary Jame 11-4 fav. 8 ran. ½, 1¼, (N Litmoden, Wolverhampton). Tota: \$5.40; \$2:00, \$1:80, £1:30, DF: \$1480, CSF: £15.25.
3.00: 1. CHINA CASTUE (P Gnode) 11-4;

Place St £1003. Place 5: £762.

Also: 9-2 Rich Tycoon,

C K L S 7

7-1 7-1 8-1 7-1 13-2

over Fleeting Mandate.

Newton Abbot.

pecting of him, anyhow. There's none of the Irish horses can touch him, and we're not expecting to be in the running at

"We're hoping that he runs a nice race and comes back sound, and if he does, at least we have five weeks left to prepare him for Cheltenham and I'd be reckoning that we could put in a good run there." But it is impossible to know

long long way. We've had to try how a return to competition might fire a natural performer like Danoli. "I think he knows that there's something going on," Foley says. "The television cameras were down today, and we took him to Leopardstown on Ladbroke Hurdle day to give him a little run-around, so he knows that he's getting back

"An awful lot of people enquire about him wherever I go, but the thing is that he's been so long without running that people are starting to say he'll never come back. But if he comes back and puts in a denessy at least. "I think that cent run, it'll be back to the

have it all back."

If Danoli makes it as far as Cheltenham, he will be the first horse on many minds. Cool Dawn, by contrast, will probably start among the outsiders, despite having actually won the Gold Cup last year. His form this season has been disappointing, but he is now recovering from treatment for crushed vertebrae in his back. sustained when he toppled over in the parade ring at Wincanton before his seasonal debut.

"It wasn't serious but it was painful when he jumped," Robert Alner, his trainer, said yesterday. "It has settled down now and he is back in full work. He is being trained for the Gold Cup, and all being well he'll go straight to Cheltenham. We are not stressing him too much, and we are hoping for fast ground again."

■ Mouse Morris will today confirm either Tony McCoy or Paul Carberry as Boss Doyle's rider in Sunday's Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup. McCoy is favourite to take the ride on the seven-year-old.



Danoli has the support of his loyal trainer Tom Foley (centre) and stable-lad Jim Treacy

# **Obstruction** to Route plan

DIRECT ROUTE could be forced to miss a run in the Mitsubishi Shogun Ascot Chase on 20 February because of the lack of a suitable jockey. If the Cheltenham Gold Cup leading fancy Teeton Mill has his Festival warm-up in the two-anda-half-mile Grade One race - as seems likely - he will be ridden by Norman Williamson That would leaving Johnson with the task of replacing the Irishman on Direct Route, whom he partnered to success in the Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown in December.

Johnson has Tony McCoy and Paul Carberry in mind for Direct Route, who is the market leader for the Champion Chase at Cheltenham. However, Tony Dobbin, fiercely criticised for his tactics on the eight-year-old when second in the Castleford Chase at Wetherby over Christmas, is out of the running.

McCoy could be claimed for one of Martin Pipe's entries in Perfecta. the race, leaving Johnson with

"Direct Route is a horse who has to have a pipe-opener, so I definitely want to get him down for the Mitsubishi race. But I wouldn't run him if I couldn't get Tony or Paul, it is as simple as that

Johnson has gone 49 days without a win and said: "I can't seem to do anything right at the minute. I had a disastrous day at Musselburgh yesterday [Tuesday]. My horses are running well without winning. I have had about 20 seconds and thirds."

NEWTON ABBOT Going: Heavy 

Also: 60-1 Scarlet Rambler (4th), 100-1

5 ran. 6, 4, 17. (winner bay galding by Good Tames out of Dusalist trained by Miss K Marks at Bewdley for N Shutts). Tote: win £420; places £110. £310. DF: £1100. CSF:

2.40: (2m 6f novice handicap hurdle)
1. CRAZY CRUSADER \_\_\_\_\_ D Leehy 7-1
2. Blazing Storm \_\_\_\_\_ O Shorels 8-4
3. Benearther Store

Also: 7-1 Otter River, 8-1 Sandoran (4th), 10-1 Cherry Pie (5th), 16-1 River Mulligan, Valed Dancer, 20-1 Amothebambo, 33-1

3.10: (2m 110yds handicap chese)
1. NORTHERN SADDLER "R Johnson 4-1

3. Elegant Des Cosses "R Dunwoody 4-1

7 ran. 10, 6, 10, 12, 29. (winner chestrul

gekling by Nonvick out of Miss Saddler trained by R Hodges at Somerton for him-self). Tota: wm 8420; places \$180, \$280.

Alac: 3-1 Grangewood King. 12-1 Granny Rich, 33-1 Miles More Fun (4th), 66-1 Baby Lancaster, 100-1 Willet Wizard.

¥THE INDEPENDENT

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ns tay Rockforcetell, 12-1 Hold Your

Fickering Light, Music Class (6th). 11 ran. 6. 4. 15. 3. dist. (wirmer grey mare by Gildoran out of Luzde The Twig trained by D Gandolfo at Wantage for A E Frost).

### TOWCESTER

1.40 Winters Keep 3.40 African Sun 2.10 Wandering Light (nb) 4.10 Beyond Our Reach 4.40 Liniyan 3.10 Cheerful Aspect

GOING: Chases - Soft; Hardes - Good to Soft (Heavy patches).

Right-hand, undusting circust. Run-in of 140yds.

Course is on A5 SE of fourt. But service from Northernoton station. ADMISSION: Members £13; Tattersatis £9 (OAPs £8); Course £1 CAR PARIK. Free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS:

LEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson 29-75 (38.7%), K Balley 13-53 (24.5%), Mrs J Pitman 11-48 (22.9%), Miss V Williams 10-33 (30.3%), C Brooks 9-42 (21.4%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: A Megutre 19-63 (30.2%), N Williamson 17-69 (28.8%), Williamson 17-69 (28.8%), B FAVOURITES: 122-472 (38.5%).

BLINKERED FIRST TRAE: .

| ļ |    | ANCAE          | pring, test.   |
|---|----|----------------|--|
|   | [1 | .40            | WINNING FORMULA FOR WEDDINGS SELLING H'CAP<br>HURDLE (G) £2,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £1,884 |
| ı | 1  | 5-6066         | CLAIRESWAN (7) [M Banett) C Dwyer 7 120 M H Naughton (5)   |
| l | 2  |                | AMELLIONNENORIES (49) (C) (P Jones M Lambert) Mrs B Vierry 9 11 11 _ E Byrne                     |
| Į | 3  | 344814         | APACHE PARK (USA) (7) (D) NA Beyl A Streets 6 th 7 T Beyl  |
| İ | 4  | 12944-         | OUR SLIMBREDGE (\$00) (D) (BF) (Gordon W Day) A Canol 11 11 6O McPhail (5)                       |
| ı | 5  |                | ADIB (USA) (27) (N Mason) N Mason 9 11 5 R Guest   |
|   | 6  | FFF345         | THE FLYING DOCTOR (31) (C) (Galloping Purpers) P Bowen 9 11 5 W Macaton                          |
| l | 7  |                | MR CHRISTIE (28) (Devid Mann Partnessing) Miss L Scidal 7 11 4                                   |
| İ | 8  |                | SHEPLY (Z7) (CD) (Mrs J irvine) Miss Z Davison 10 11 1   |
| ł | 8  | 5-8060         | CAMEO (USA) (40) (CD) (M Banks) M Banks 12 to 10M Richards                                       |
|   | 10 | 63-6P5         | SOX CLERKS (27) (W J Odel) Mrs S Odel 6 to 8 B Featon  |
| i | Ħ  | 32353          | BALMORAL PRINCESS (27) (Mrs S K Mass) D McCan 6 126  |
| Ì | 12 |                | WINTERS KEEP (40) (Killian Partnership) M Masscher 7 10 5 J Magae                                |
| ı | 13 |                | TRAKELOR (33) (L.A. Margari) R Holinshead 4 10 2   |
| ł | 14 | 0-0010         | SANDANTE (31) (M West) R Bucker 8 10 0   |
|   | 15 | <b>9016</b> 0- | CHELLY LAD (416) (Also H Mottley) H Mottley 8 100  |
| i | 16 | /OPOSP         | CRAZY HORSE DANCER (27) (D) (Mrs A Roddis) F Jordan 11 10 0                                      |
| ı |    |                | - 16 declared -  |
| ı |    |                |  |

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicep weights: Chilly Led 9st 13to, Cresy Horse Dencer 9st 11to. BET TINIC 9-2 Apache Park, 6-1 Balmorel Princess, 7-1 Slanply, 8-1 Claireewan, Amildionimemo Hes, 9-1 The Flying Doctor, 10-1 Cambo, Winters Keep, 12-1 Our Slambridge, Adib, 14-1 ethers 1998: Cambo 12 10 2 M Richards 5-1 (M Banks) 21 ran

Chaireswac: Catterick Smill when to to to 19 to Cathedral Sale at Huntingdon (Smill house from after lean spell when 19 lengths 6th of 19 to Cathedral Sale at Huntingdon (Smill house, soft). Possibly best on a light course
Amillionmemories: Revitalised since lay-off with the length win over Summer. hosp, soft). Possibly best on a tight course Amillionmemorfes: Revitalised since lay-off with Huntingdon Sm2i second and 2-length who wer Summer Plower here (2m sell hosp, soft). Form working out but 8b higher Apache Paric Form of Lelcester 2m4f win in Declooking good and creditable 8 lengths 4th of 19 to Cathedral Belle at Huntingdon (2m5f hosp, soft) following 7-week lay-off.

4b higher now but one to consider
Our Silmbridge: Winner from 20lb higher three seasons ago, Sidelined since 21 lengths 4th to Kraef at Fortwell (2m8f sell heap, good) in April, Best watched Adilb: Ayr winner for George Moore in 1996-97 from 5tb higher. Better effort this term when 28 lengths 4th to Simply over this C&D last month, but plenty to find The Flying Doctor: Well treated on Warwick 13 lengths 3rd to Northern Maestro in Nov (2m3f sell, good) from 4tb higher. Below form on soft ground since Mr Christile: Unreliable sort, on side since Hartingdon 3m2f (soft) win with Richard Durwoody in March from 12tb higher. Durwoody on board but little appeal Skimply: Narrow C&D winner from Weather Wise last month following Follestions win, but touch test from 3tb higher in more commettive company.

Salapy; Nation Cod with a follower was extended to company.

Cambo: Last year's winner from 4th lower but has not shown much this term apart from 20 lengths 6th to Charite Banker at Windoor and possibly feeling his years Str. Clarites: Limited ability over fences last season and little show in fundes this term Bailmoral Princess: Market Resen 2m3f winner from 1th lower in Dec and closely weighted with Simply on their running over C&D latest. McCoy booking interesting but cleans on her filled.

but plenty on her plate
Winters Keep: Still a novice but promising 15 lengths 4th to Owtabeatrn at Carlisle
Winters Keep: Still a novice but promising 15 lengths 4th to Owtabeatrn at Carlisle
Zmith leavy) in Nov. Disappointing since but one to wetch in betting
Trailefor: Signs of ability when 8 lengths 4th in Uttowater 2m novice setter in Dec but
disappointing over same C&D since and makes little appeal
Sandante: First form to lend poor Einster 2m1f setter (heavy) last month but falled
to reproduce that effort at Folkestone and Besty to struggle in this tougher race
Chilly Lack Stratiford novice seller winter 16 months ago, but is making first appearance
for 13 months and looks one to be wary of for he moment.
Crazy Horse Dencer: Showing nothing and tailed off at Sedgefield on latest start
VESDICCT: Bester interconnection to the

VERDICT: Further improvement in the ground could bring The Flying Doctor into the argument off a lenient mark, but with the likelihood of conditions remeining testing. APACHE PARK looks the answer. He should be sharper for Huntingdom and a return to his previous Lolcester winning form would make him hard to beat. Clarkewen looks a possible danger, and a major bid by Winters Keep cannot be ruled out.

| 2  | .10    | TOTE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000 added 3m 1f Penalty Value £6,938 |            |
|----|--------|--|------------|
| 1  | F2-111 | REGERT SANDFRED (33) (D) (P A Bull Mass A M Newton-Smith 1) 1)         | G Bracker  |
| 2  | O/111- | WANDEFONG LIGHT (223) (Arme Duckess of Westminster) H Daily 10 17 8    | R Johnson  |
| 3  | PIFUO  | CHRISTMAS GORSE (695) (D R Stoddarf) N Geselee 13 11 3                 | Literativo |
| 4  |        | BANKO-EAD (54) (CD) (A J & Mrs L Brazier) J Spearing 10 11 3           |            |
| 5  |        | RAMALLAH (22) (CD) (Madens Green Partnership) Mess H Knight 10 11 3    |            |
| 6  |        | DENVER BAY (12) (C) (D) (Bil Naylor) J (Sifford 12 to 11               |            |
| 7  |        | BRAVE BUCCANEER (7) (CO) (RE Fowler) RE Fowler 12 10 7                 |            |
| 8  | 43312P | SOLO GENT (14) (CD) (Eastbury Racing) A P Jones 10 10 5                | B Cellord  |
| 9  |        | JUST BRUCE (243) (A M Heath) Mrs E Heath 10 100                        |            |
| 10 | 13U35- | BALLYDOUGAN (269) (CD) (Mis R Mathew) R Mathew 11 10 0                 | Maraton V  |
|    |        | 46 destand   |            |

Allnimm weight: 10st. Title handlosp weights: Just Bruce Set 11th, Bellydoogen Set 9th. BET (1902: 7-4 Rightsaldfred, 16-5 Wenderlag Light, 7-1 Serbbeed, 6-1 Renesish, Sc Christomes Gone, 20-1 Dewer Bing, 25-1 Brave Buccesnees, 33-1 Just Bruce, Bellyd 1996: Sall By The Starts 9 11 10 S Wynne 13-8 Sar (F Foosler) 9 ran

 High LOW \_\_\_\_\_ | Mogford 5-1
 Glacial Missile \_\_\_\_ S Dursck 7-2
 Distant Storm \_\_Michael Brennan 5-1 FORM GUIDE FORM GUIDE

Rightsaldfred; improving feet with wins at Plumpton, Follostone and Newbury (2m2) hote, heavy). Raised 7th for heating Ask Anthony 31/s lengths latest and stiff task now but suffect by testing conditions and carriot be distributed. Wendering Lights National Fund Chase winner at Cheinham (4m, good) in Merch and looks lariently weighted on a line through third-placed Tortuff Express, Progressive, goes well fresh and acts on an easy aurhore. Christmes Gorse: Whiner first time out two seasons ago and later unlucky from 5th higher at Warwick, but sidelined for 22 months. Long the in tooth for cometack Bankthead: Patured to hundling two seasons ago after ematic novice chase career (winner over 2m hare). Showing plenty of ability over hundles since lay-off but difficult to weigh up in this sphere. 7 ran. 9, 4, 11/2, 11/4, 7, farimer bay gelding by Clever Trick out of En Trempo trained by Livers at Cwmbran for himself). Tota: win £560; places £180, £230. DF: £1050. CSF: £2218.

Remailate Course spacellet and successful off this mark at Easter less May, but running poorly this term and pulled up both starts (once here) before failing in the race won by King Lucrier at Kempton lateral. Deflouts to termy with yard out of form Desirer Bay. Formerly useful chaser but pulled up four times in last five starts Brave Boocaneae. Progressive for Redy Turnet two starts for new yard effer lay-off Solo Gestic Huttingdon spaceless though something of a plotder. Well in on 3-length 2nd to Young Kenny at Market Resen (4nd) at one but trip on sharp side Just Bruces Struggling since besting Native Venture from 4th higher at Lacester in March. First run store Juste and best watched for eights of revent. Acts on soft Ballydourgent Capable of taking a hand on pick of last season's form (despite being out of the handcapt and goes particularly well here, but long lay-off a worry VERDIGCT? More Tay bits as executivities them and occessors and MAM.

VERDICT: Herry Daty has a remarkable strike-rate over recent weeks, and WAN-DERING UGHT has city to take up where he left off at Chetenham last March to prove a very fough not indeed, the goes well fresh, and with the similarly progres-sive Rightswidtred 3-sty to make this a good test, should be able to exploit his airple

| <u>2</u> . | 40    | 23,000 added 2m Penalty Value \$2,513                             |
|------------|-------|---|
|            | 6231- | SHALALL (USA) (250) (E Knowles: 12 Chapman 5 # 17 W Worthington   |
| ?          | 56    | BASSAND (USA) (12) L. P. Motherust J. Sifters 5 ft 3              |
| 3          | MPP.  | COLONEL HOOK (294) PMs 5 : Loddert D Notolson 7 to 3              |
| ı          |       | GET THE POINT (15) 71. Housen, 5 Golfres 5 m 3 D Gallagher        |
| i          |       | KURDISTAN (1904) : P Wegner: F Wegner: 9 ft 3                     |
| ì          |       | MORE FUN (USA) (22) : W Basts & M Basts & M 3 M Richards          |
| •          |       | NAVISEN (GER) (3) (S Cated Max E Lande 8 tf 3                     |
| ı          |       | PRAFIE NESAN (12) (Lack Acres Bentock) C Branner 8 to 3 M Branson |
| •          | 2     | RADOMSKO (15) Label At Record Mail Planer 7 Tf 3                  |
| 0          | 5-6   | HENBURY PRINCESS (37) (F E Crampler, B R Milmer 6 10 12           |
| _          |       | - 10 declared -   |

- 40 Unicaretti -BETTHIG: 11-8 Radomsto, 4-1 Get The Point, 9-2 Bassano, 6-1 Shelsel, 12-1 Prairie Indian, 16-1 Colonal Hook, More Fizz, 33-3 others 1998: Solomen 5 % 3 F hide extra ter (/ Gafford: 17 cm

FORM GUIDE

FORM GLIDE

Shalash Confirmed early promise what bearing Alcalità at Cartmel (2m1f nov. good to firm) in May, but soleined since. Yet to show he handles soft ground Bassanov. Yet to sho up to high home array and tred badly from last after pulling hard when destart 6th of 9 in Kingsmark at Nempton (2m5) nov. soft). Shorter trip should suit and capable of considerably better if he learns to settle. Colonel Hook: Little sign of abidly in bumpers and in his hundles outings for John OShea. Worth a check in the market on first run for new yard. Get The Policit happined on promising debut when, every chance 3 cut, 7 lengths 3rd of 7 to Gensstone at Humangdon (2m nov. soft) but 6 lengths to find with runner-up Radomako here on seme terms. Kundistant Some abidly in Lindow novice in May 1996. First race since allow home frait in womer and placed at trief in France for Croquette Head, but 33-1 and stways betand in race with by Descell at Kempton (2m, heavy) on jumps debut Nameer: Profile Plat winner in Genneury. Showing little over timber and pulled up after facting from halfwey in Emptuses race at Fortwell (2m11; 301) latest.

Prairie Indian: Bumper-placed and best race over hardles when 19 lengths 3rd to Windross at Haydook (2m4) soft) latest, fading from 3 out. Something to find Radomatics: Useful performer up to fin2 on Plat in treband for John Oxx at three. Promising fundes debut when, better for race and wealering flat, beaten 11/lengths by Gernstone at Hardingdon (2m nov. soft). Looks the one to best Hentbury Princess; 66-1, behind from 3rd when distant 6th of 12 Yolda Moppe at Raumon (2m11 nov. good to soft) on first run for new yard. Little appeal VERDICT: This is unlikely to take much winning, and a repeat of his Huntingdon.

VERDICT: This is unlikely to take much winning, and a repeat of his Huntingdon debut effort should be sufficient to get RADOMSKO off the mark. He was beaten only by lack of full fitness last time, following a long lay-off, and appears to have an easier task here. Third-placed Get The Point should make the farme again but a longer threat could be Bassissio, who was going well to this distance at Kempton and

| should be suited by the stronger pace over this shorter the. |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 3.10   | CORPORATE BONDING AT THE RACES NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 6f Penalty Value £2,929 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | (CENTUCKY GOLD (57) (Halewood International) Mrs L Williamson 10 ft 8 S Wyrane                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | BROWJOSHY (71) (C) (E) D L Packy) Mrs J Pieman 6 11 4   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3P21/4   | BUTLERS MATCH (35) (Our Leader Partnershp) H Mobby 9 TI 4                                     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | CHEERIFUL ASPECT (26) (BF) (Lady Pllorgeon) H Daly 6 to 4                                     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

- 9 ded SETTING: 13-8 Cheerful Aspect, 9-4 Spring Double, 11-2 Browjoshy, 10-1 Sweet Lord, 14-1 Ken-

Bah 9 11 4 J Culloty 5-1 (Ness H Kinight) 16 ran

FORM GUIDE

Kentucky Gold: Winning pointer. Poor staying form under rules, latte chance here on his latest eventh of 11 firitiners in novice handicap at Haydock (3nt, soft) Browloathy: Chasing type with faith hundles form. 13-length winner from Rockliffe Gosein maiden hundle here (2m5t, soft) ten days before poor run at Chepstow Buttlers Match: Poor pointer. Remote fourth of 5 firehers in maiden chase at Warwick (3m2t) good to soft) on rules debut in 0.5 firehers in maiden chase at Warwick (3m2t) good to soft) on rules debut in 0.5 centres Hard to fancy Cheerful Aspect: Very useful hundler. Would have won Warwick chasing debut (2m4t, soft) last mortifi but for sip-up 3 out when traveling well 2 lengths up on Samuel Widerspir, eventually regaining second. Promising and should stay 2m8t Malestic Storm: Placed in lish points. No rules form, distant third in maiden chase Mr Edgar: Modest hundles form. 22 lengths fourth of 7 firishers to Salmon Breeze In novice chase at Follesstone (2m5t, soft). Needs substantial improvement Spring Doublet: Useful hundler. Not so good yet over tences but is improving, 9 lengths second to essed-down Mariborough at Kempton (3m, soft) on reappearance Sweet Lond: Fair hundler for Mark Bradistock. Second taxourite in 10-runner novice chase at Windsor, when would have been second to Millersford but for fail 3 out Time To Perfezz. At long odds all five starts, hinting at modest ability over hundles but no promise either start (in novice chase on reappearance) this sedeon VERDICT; Mrs Ptemsn fields another filely type for chasing in Browlooshy, who FORM GUIDE

VERDICT: Mrs Planen fields enother filely type for chasing in Browljoehy, who looked on the upgrade when winning easily here in November, but on form (over hurdes and fences) this lies between Cheerful Aspect and SPRING DOUBLE. There is no denying that Cheerful Aspect, a better hurder than Spring Double, looked highly promising on his chasing debut, but there is a stamina doubt with him (last year's hurdles win at Warwick was over 2m41/4) that does not exist with his main rival.

3.40 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000

| -40    | added 2m Penalty Value \$2,303  |
|--------|---|
| 51P12/ | ISMENO (744) (CD) (Ars A M Upsdell) D Esworth 8 12 0P Holle   |
| 0-62U3 | CAP IT IF YOU CAN (17) (D) (T Caldwell) T Caldwell 6 11 10 Wr R Forristal (5                                    |
| 203    | AMBROECHOUS (P10) (CD) (BF) (Mrs C McPhell) E Alston 7 11 1 L Cumpnies (3                                       |
| 345-00 | PROVINCE (359 (D) (J E Brown) C Mann 6 to 0 Mage<br>writer JM Wants (14) (P Wegmann) P Wegmann 6 to 1 D Matthew |
| 645    | FALCON RIDGE 650 U.R.Laselet Mas E.Lavelle 5 17 0   |
| 546-42 | AFFECAN SUN (40) (D) (N Fischer) M Chapmen 6 10 0   |
|        |   |

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

isnoence: Unraced for 2 years and ran only thice that form, whiteling at Plumpton and second of 14 off this mark at Leucester, both of atomat 2 metric on special bit off serious control of 14 off this mark at Leucester, both of atomat 2 metric on special bit offices on Good thard of 18 at Doncester second start here. Acts on hetery going Ambibitestrouse: In good form this term off the mark, thard of 6 at huntergoon and in process of infaring decent race white being at Leuces CSD seater on soft Provincer in good form test season, warning hundedess at Leughtoc 12th hees of and Provincer in good form test season, warning hundedess at Leughtoc 12th hees of and Provincer (2012). Absent for a year, Ususary bis/wared, but not follow when rearry at of this races were at around 3m. Deappointing the term Pation Ridge: Poor on Flat. Has had three hundle races, chances here reading on his 13 lengths fourth of 10 at Easter (2011) good to soft Thed at 2014 labers. African Sun: Races almost exclusively at highest Pasen (2011) 11, though only war over last two seasons was at Ludow Good effort letter start Act on heavy. Moonlighter: Modest form over 2014 on a soft surface in 1996. 7 season, but has been disappointing since. Big doubts over shortly the part current with being Brownings Boys 50 out of herotoge on horize and how at the part of the parts of in nonce events. Decent sort physically, he showed some ribidly (4) decut

VERDICT: Substantial question marks hang over most of those runners, and on recent form this can be narrowed down to CAP IT IF YOU CAN Ambidestrous and African Sun, all of whom are proven on testing ground. A narrow wore goes to Cap It If You Can who has the valuable assistance of 5th channing amature flucture restate. Faltion Ridge would be less of a surprise on form than fellow handicap dioble? It tant Brownings Boy, but the latter looks the sort to do better

4.10 TOWCESTER FOR CONFERENCES HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,250 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,659 2:-ULH PARLAMENTARIAN (49) (CD) (J G M Wales T Casey () T 12
2534 EEYOND OUR REACH (53) (CD) (F E Ascri R Hodges n 11 9
-2213 ROVESTAR (59) (J) (G Burell C Popular B 11 8
254-33 (AMANO) (22) (D) (C R Nugeri G Menor T 17 7 ...
36234 MR BEAK (14) (D) (Mn V Gry) B Lieuwhn 9 11 1

-5 declared -BETTING: 9-4 Quenço, 3-1 Beyond Our Reach, Rovestar, 11-2 Mr Been, 6-1 Parkementarian 1998 Not My Lose 9 tt Q Mr A Sensone 6-1 (W Gaudeel) 4 ren FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Perliamentarian: Back down to last wirrang mark from C&D last May Ran badly latest start and adjust to further doubts over entitiesesm and jumping ability. Beyond Our Reach: Gained the stard of last terms wins over C&D off the lower mark. Bit below best his term, but thing enough to show he acts on testing ground. Revester: One good run (win in four-turner race will work) from two starts this season, latest effort a periodiarly poor one. Acts on heavy ground. Quango: Winner on chasing debut (2m1), good to soft) lest April, but inconsistent and without a wan since Hard ride, but his dropped to an attractive mark. Mr Beant Won at Chepstow (2m4) good to soft in October. One resp (third of 4 at Stratterd over 2m2) on heavy! since and two poor ones

one to rely on for consistency or enthusiasm it would be no great surprise if any of these five won it, but Beyond Our Reach may be the chief danger. 4.40 TOWCESTER MEANS BUSINESS INTERMEDIATE OPEN

| 7.4V      | NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,750 2m Penalty  | Value £1,46      |
|-----------|---|------------------|
|           | BEGIN AGAIN (3S) (R Bowers) P Webber 5 11 4   | J Osben          |
|           | BORN OF FURAR (RE Lucies Goos) Mrs T Lucies Goos 5 11 4 .   |                  |
| G-        | PLORES (426) (Robert Highwa) Mrs J Pitman 7 ft 4  | D Lee            |
|           | GOT NEWS FOR YOU HAD DAY WAS STAN ! I STANGE S TI 4 _   | endot R .        |
|           | MORNING ALF (R J Carle) D Geragley 6 11 4   | G Supple         |
|           | ONE OF THE NATIVES (Denot C Mercer) D Nicholson 5 to 4  | R Maga           |
|           | PETTREE (Pethler Ltd) N Treston-Cares 5 11 4  | C Llowell        |
|           | SIR MURPHY (P Wegmann) P Wegmann 6 TI 4   | D Matthe         |
| P-452     | THE HILL HAS MOVED (24) (BF) (H R C Cameracod) P Hotels 6 TI  |                  |
| 3         | WELLINGTON (NZ) (27) (Nrs P T Orstan) N Gaselee 5 Tl 4  | M A Figgers      |
|           | DEEP PASSION (F Lynch) C Hendey 7 to 13   | .Miss A Dudley ( |
|           | OUR LOTTIE (U.S. House) S. Knight 7 to 13   | S Burrou         |
| 0-        | TROPPI GUAI (045) (Mrs L Farmer) P Delton 5 10 13   | Mr R Fondatel (  |
| -         | LIMIYAN (Mrs P A H Hartley) Mss V Williams 4 10 8   | N Williams       |
| 33        | PERTEMPS CINORELLA (12) (G Duckhaven Stud) A D Smith 4 12 3   |                  |
| -         | - 15 declared -   | verbus (         |
| TIME: 11. | - 10 consequence 10 consequence 10 consequence 10 consequence - 10 consequence | <b></b>          |

on Files: 11-4 The Hill Has Moved, 7-2 Petires, 4-1 One of The Natives, Cindrella, Got News For You, 14-1 Flores, 16-1 Wellington, 33-1 others 1998. Russell Road 6 ti 8 R Massey (3) evens fav (D Nicholson) 18 ran FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Begin Again: Syo by Neibria. 25-1 for debut in bumper at Warwick (2m, good to soft) in December and finished well beaten in 13th of 19

Born Of Fuber: Syo by Neibria. 25-1 for debut in bumper at Warwick (2m, good to soft) in December and finished well beaten in 13th of 19

Born Of Fuber: Syo by North Cot out of a warring pointer. Flores: 18,000-gurses son of Air Display from a good NH family. Weak third favourities only eighth of 16 in bumper at Heretord (2m1t, good to soft) in December 1997. Got News For You: Syo by Postive Statement. 20-1. 71/- lengths tittl of 16 to Starting Again an bumper at Ludow (2m, good) in December, weakening in the streight Blomling Alt: Byo by Scallywag out of mare with no winners from fine earlier loats. One Or The Natives: Syo by Be My Native, half-brother to a useful bumper winner in Fastive Teak, Makes more appeal than most on paper. Pettree: Syo by King Persian out of a wenning hurder Made 20,000 gureas at auction last season, so clearly made some appeal at that stage. One to note Str. Murphys No great claims on pedigree. The Hitl Hea Moved: Showed abbits in lectand in the autumn. Co-favourite. It lengths second of 5 to Anna Karnal at Fortwell (2m2t, heavy) on first run for Philip Hobbs, and would have won but for stopping at pedicick etal close home. Wellington: Scopey Syo from New Zeeland. 12-1, some line headway when third of 7 to wide-margin winner Abalvino on debut here (heavy) four weeks ago Deep Passion: Tyo mare by Little Wolf out of a dum who won a schrip hurdle Our Lottle: Tyo by Nearly A Hand, sister to useful Teletrader. Unruly and was with drawn from a Saunton bumper fire weeks ago. Troppil Guelt: From a good family. 20-1 well-beaten fifteenth of 17 at Doncaster Cra. good to firm) on only pervious appearance. It monits ago. Linkyan: 4yo gelding by Kalyasi from top-class family of Aga Khans on Flat, Made Fortemper (Cindrella: Third in bumpers at Fortwell and Kempton (beaten 4 lengthe in 12-runhar race won by The Extra Man), both on soft ground.

VERDICT: The form choice is THE HILL HAS MOVED, but his disinclination to complete the course at Forntwell is obviously a concern and his form leven teasuring that he would have been a clear-out winner that day) is not so good that he would get the vote over a decort newcomer. The most Budy threats from that group, from major stables, are One Of The Natives, Pettree and Univan

### KELSO

2.00 Knockara Fair 2.30 Radiation 3.00 Briano 3.30 TOUGH TEST (nap) 4.00 Grooving 4.30 Makin' Doo

GOING: Soft (Heavy in places).

El Unduleting course. Run-in of two furiongs.

El Course is N of lower off B646s. ADMISSION: Cabb 512 (Juniors 16-2) relativistics (A). Accompanied under-ties free. CAR PARK: Free.

ELEADING TRAINERS: Mire M Reveloy 35-529 (2794). M Hammond 22-105 (2044). G M Moore 13-55 (2374). J H Johnson 13-78 (674).

ELEADING JOCKEYS: P Riven 39-30 (30%). A Dobbin 25-54 (62%). B Storey 19-39 (112%). H Garritry 15-85 (231%).

ELEADING JOCKEYS: P Riven 39-30 (30%). A Dobbin 25-54 (62%). B Storey 19-39 (112%). H Garritry 15-85 (231%).

ELANCHED FRIST TIME Lothen Commender (230). Briano (300).

3.00: 1. CHINA CAST EDIZA 3.00: 1. CHINA CASTLE (P Goode) 11-4; 2. Lysandros 8-1; 3. Primary Colours 7-1 8 ran. 8-4 fax King Pnam (4th), ½, ½, (P Haslam, Middelam), Tota: 5.360; £100, 22.70, £2.20. DF: £3050. CSF: £30.77 Line as: £128.78. NR: Fizawiijam. 3.30: 1. THEKTYAATI (J. Quinn) 3-1 jt fav; 2. Telluten Belle 3-1 jt fav; 3. Swift 14-1 11 ran. 3. 1/4. (M. Johnston, Mcdeham). Tote: 9480; 190, 190, 190, DF: 5840. CSF: 5120. Tricast: \$10642. Trifecta: \$24690. 2.00 ISLE OF SKYE BLENDED WHISKY 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (D) £4,000 2m 110yds HIGHER TROOK TO THERE (A Culture) Evens fav; 2. Nicholes Mistress 9-1; 3. Di-amond Blush 20-1, 7 rsn. 1/4, 7 H Holinshead, Upper Longdon), Tota: 52:20; 51:80, 52:80. DF: 57:00. CSF: 57:037. A.30: 1. ROYAL PREVIEW (C Carver) 7-2 fav; 2. Indian Swinger 7-1; 3. Polity Mills 12-1 9 ran, 7. /s. (M Bel, Newmarket) Total 2380; 2300; 2280, 2170. DF: 228.71. CSF: 22553 Tricast 234042. Jackpot: £7233.70.

This should not present too many problems for KNOCKARA FAIR, the cleer pick on both bumper and hurdes form. His odds will be cramped, however, and Sillymore appeals most as an each-way alternative.

2.30 TOTE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £8,500 added 3m 1f 1 - LUSIP ARDERT SCOUT (21) (D) No S Smith 7 ti 3 \_\_\_\_\_\_ S Durack
2 03-55 CASTLE RED (89) JH Johnson 8 ti 3 \_\_\_\_\_\_ D Parler B
3 PSSPOU CHEE CHPPE (94) W Kernp 6 ti 3 \_\_\_\_\_ C McCommack (3) B
4 82M4 LUTHAM COMMANDER (40) D McCart 7 ti 3 \_\_\_\_ C Vec (6) B
5 2-2FD PHAR ECHO (37) (D) L Lungo 8 ti 3 \_\_\_\_\_ R Sopple
6 1-2LSS GUESTES SERGADE (12) J Welson 7 ti 3 \_\_\_\_\_ B Soony
7 3-154 RADIATION (39) (C) (D) J ONell 6 ti 3 \_\_\_\_\_ R McCred
8 40-PP6 SPRINGLEA TOWER (12) R Namo 6 ti 3 \_\_\_\_\_ S Taylor
- 8 declared BETTING 11-10 Ardert Scout, 2-1 Radiation, 8-1 Phar Echo, 10-1 Cosens
Brigade, 14-1 Castle Red, Lothian Commender, 50-1 others

FORM GUIDE

RADIATION, Ardeat Scout and Pher Echo are the three to concentrate on here. All three get the trp and act on testing ground, and Ardent Scout has decent form already in the book. However, Radiation would have given him a race at Wetherby but for two errors in the closing stages, and on 716 befor terms he could desting interest.

3.00 GLASSEDIN SCOTTISH HURDLE (C) 58,000 added 4YO 2m 110yds

- 14 declared - - 6 declared - - 6 declared - - 6 declared - - 8ETTING: 4-7 Knockers Fair, 9-2 Sibyraora, 10-1 Kinga Inch, 12-1 Never-colod Hoy, 14-4 Scraptastic, 20-1 Colosprana, 23-1 Just Joke, 33-1 others - Claris, 50-1 others

FORM GUIDE Brismo put up a decent performance - finishing ahead of a couple of previous dual winners rated 108 and 115 - shough beaters a long way into their place behind Major Sponsor at Newcastle. However, the application of billners as hardly encouraging, and it will probably pay to stock with the progressive UNIEPORIM.

3.30 PERSIMMON HOMES HANDICAP CHASE (C) £10,000 added 2m 6f 110yds 

FORM GUIDE

Swamblatar will be tancied by many to raverse the form with TOUGH TEST on their recent run over 3m11 here, but Tough Test should come on to that run too and has everything in his favour. Davy Bates and Better Times Ahead have very smiler profiles in that they are getting on in years, would both appreciate farther and have to give a lot of weight away all round.

4.00 TIM DOODY HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 2f  50530 EARP (12) F Murtagh 7 10 0

10-130 PRIDDY FAIR (40) B Michagairt 6 10 0

10-130 SUBBA CREEK (51) V Thompson 5 10 0

Mr M Thompson 1 40UPP JUST HUSH (20) (C) R Nation 6 10 0

Mentmum weight: 10st. Two handcap weights: Common Sound that 9th 6499 Set 5th, Proday Fair 8st 5th, Science Creen itst 13th, Juliat Husb By 11th BETTING: 5-2 Grooving, 5-1 Cospel Song, 6-1 Kilbure King, Craightin, 7-1 Bernserd Seven, 8-1 Supertop, Priddy Fair, 12-1 others

FORM GUIDE An uncompetitive handicap, with several not ideally suited by the conditions. Title and going will not better GRODVING and he is the one to beat, though a peak-form Kilbue King week! be a live threat.

4.30 COLIN ROGERS 60TH BIRTHDAY HUNTER CHASE (H) \$3,000 3m 11

4.30 COLIN ROUGHS SOLIN SHITMUAT HUNTER CHASE (H) \$3,000 3m 11

1 STOL ENSIGN EWART (207) (C) J Story 9 12 Mr 3 CREATED (CO) STORE 10 CS Mr 8 CREATED (CO) STORE 10 CS Mr 8 CREATED (CO) STORE 10 CS Mr 8 CREATED (CO) STORE 10 CS Mr 8 CREATED (CO) STORE 10 CS Mr 8 CREATED (CO) STORE 10 CS Mr 14 CREATED (CO) STORE 10 CS Mr 14 CREATED (CO) STORE 10 CS Mr 14 CREATED (CO) STORE 10 CS Mr 15 CS Mr 15 CS Mr 16 CS Mr 16 M

A rouby competitive trunce chaps intering several interesting point-to-point variety, as well as solid harder chaps with a solid harder chaps with restriction including Andy Burnett, who won the state light with the Goodbye has to be respected, but PARICHMORE is paid professed since he has a strend with under his tiell.

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the organisation yesterday. European sports ministers at the World Conference on al the or-Doping in Sport objected to form the the composition of the IOC's proposed independent drugtesting agency and requested urgent consultations, to which the IOC agreed. Earlier in the day, Samarach had to deal with an in an ire and revolt as a group 50 IOC members forced him to re-I those held

> to host the Games. The establishment of the \$25m (£16m) drug-testing agency is one of the main proposals of a conference at which the IOC had hoped to restore its public image following the recent scandals over bribery and corruption. The IOC vice president, Dick Pound, said that the agency would be directed by a 15-strong group comprising members of the IOC, national Olympic committees and representatives from sponsors and

think proposals for reforming

the process of selecting cities

THE BELEAGUERED Interna-

tional Olympic Committee

president, Juan Antonio Sama-

ranch, faced serious challenges

both from outside and within

the pharmaceutical industry. However, the suggestion was immediately criticised by Britain's Minister for Sport Tony Banks, who spoke on behalf of all the European sports ministers. "It is our unanimous opinion that we cannot at present accept the composition of

- Agency," he said, adding mat its compositions and functions "be the subject of urgent consultation with the European Union and other interested bodies." Banks hinted that funding of the body would be affected by the outcome of such discussions, and defended the rights of ministers to speak out on IOC matters. "When we have criticised we have criticised as friends of the IOC. because real friends tell you the

Rowbottom.

Professor Peter Sonksen, of

St Thomas's Hospital, received

what he described as a "very

positive" reaction to his final re-

port from the IOC medical com-

on late into Tuesday night.

### DRUGS IN SPORT

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM in Lausanne

Samaranch

encircled by dissenters

Pound later admitted that the ministers had been unhappy with representation from

sponsors and the drug industry. The vice president, seen as a likely successor to Samaranch, went on to cast doubt on whether the IOC president would chair the agency body. Even the chairmanship of the council is now to be discussed.

We have no set view on this." The protest meeting of IOC members took place at 7am in the Palace Hotel, where strong views were expressed over the proposal to remove their voting right over which cities should hold the Games

In the wake of the corruption scandal surrounding Salt Lake City's successful bid for the 2002 Winter Olympics, the IOC executive board proposed last month that the host of the 2006 event should be decided by a 15strong commission, including just eight of the 106 IOC members. But that proposal has to be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the IOC membership at their extraordinary session next month, and yesterday's



recent US doping cases

breakfast gathering, which in-cluded Britain's IOC representative, Craig Reedie, presented a clear warning to the IOC president that the change

would not be accepted. The executive board will meet today to consider the rankand-file members' counter-proposal that they should retain the right to choose between the top two rival cities after the 15-strong commission had whittled down the six bidders for the 2006

"Stripping us of our right to vote is creating the impression that we cannot be trusted," said one member, who asked not to be identified. "Some bad apples do not make the whole barrel rotten." There were further complications yesterday for the IOC leadership, as their hopes of standardising the penalty for serious doping offences to a two-year ban throughout the range of Olympic sports was resisted by cycling and football.

Sebastian Coe, Britain's double Olympic champion, delivered a rebuff to the US delegates who had stressed the need for a stringent, independent IOC doping controls on the opening day of the conference.

Referring to recent doping cases in the US, including the exoneration of sprinter Dennis Mitchell on the grounds that his apparently illegal levels of testosterone were a result of drinking beer and having sex, Coe said: "Some of the cases we have seen recently have stretched credibility to breaking point. We welcome contributions from all parties to this debate, but you can contribute better if you know that what is oing on in your own back yard s beyond reproach." Asked by American journal-

ists if he regarded the judgement on Mitchell as comical, he responded: "Well, it's not a

Yorkshire's Cheryl Beaumont (bottom) moves a step closer to the British National Squash Championships as she defeats Scotland's Helen Macfie in a qualifying match in Didsbury yesterday

# HGH test 'ready by 2000'

for human growth hormone -Games of 2000." The test is dependent upon the thinking athlete's steroid in time for the Sydney Olympics the taking of blood samples from competitors, but Sonksen now looks likely, according to the is confident that there are no E expert in charge of a \$2m ு ட்கில் research project jointmajor obstacles to the instally funded by the International lation of a technique that was introduced at the 1994 Winter Olympic Committee and the European Union, writes Mike Olympics.

The five-year project, named GH2000, has involved taking blood samples from close to 1000 athletes, the last batch coming from the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in September of last

mission at a meeting that went "We have a test now that will Illegal use of human growth hormone is believed to be a pick up a high proportion of major factor in doping abuse cases where human growth worldwide. The discovery of hormone has been artificially supplies within the Chinese administered," Sonksen said. swimming team's possessions "If decisions are taken swiftly

A BREAKTHROUGH on testing the test can be in place for the at the last World Championships provided one of the highest profile pieces of evidence. but Sonksen said a picture of systematic abuse was evident from the large-scale theft of the

> substance. "Horrendous amounts of HGH go missing," he said. Trucks carrying pharmaceuticals are hijacked, and only the human growth hormone is taken." The IOC medical commission is now setting up a working committee to imple-

ment the research. Sonksen believes the jointly funded international project could be a model for future research into another undetectable substance, erythropoietin (EPO), which almost brought the Tour de France cycle race to a halt last summer.

# Broncos back in hunt for forwards

THE LONDON BRONCOS are scouring Australia for a player to reinforce their pack after learning that another of their forwards will miss the start of

the Super League season. Shane Millard, the second row who impressed after arriving last season, needs an operation on a hernia and will be out for six weeks.

London have already sent home Marty McKenzie, a prop from Adelaide, who has not played a game because of a are strong in the front row."

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### RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

back injury. Their new coach, Dan Stains, hoped to enlist Adam Starr, a front-rower he worked with at Balmain, but he does not have a visa. "We will be phoning around clubs in Australia to find someone suitable," the Broncos' chief executive, Tony Rea, said. "It is particularly important that we

London, who have refused Doncaster's suggestion of switching their cup tie on 14 February to the north, will play their televised Super League match on 9 May at their former home at Charlton Athletic. The club cannot use the floodlights

at The Stoop on Sunday nights. Mini League South Africa, which has introduced thousands of children in the country's townships to an adapted version of the game, is discussing switching to Australian Rules, because the organisation is disillusioned with what it sees as a lack of support. A try set up by a typical run from Jason Robinson and

scored by Kris Radlinski gave Wigan an 18-16 win at Halifax in both sides' last pre-season games before the Challenge Cup. Wigan's new Australian signings, Greg Florimo and Brett Goldspink, both made quiet debuts, while Halifax's South African, Jamie Bloem,

### **Britons** feel the heat in Malaysia

By Mark Garrod

in Kuala Lumpur

LEE WESTWOOD and Darren Clarke start as the favourites going into the Benson and Hedges Malaysian Open, which starts today. With a first prize of £75,000, the tournament is the first joint venture between the European Tour and Asian PGA and has been billed as "East meets West."

Humidity remains a worry for the westerners, but Westwood is accustomed to the food and conditions, having won the title in 1997 and being denied last year only in a play-off by the Rochdale-born Las Vegan Ed

"I suffered when I first played in Asia five years ago," Westwood said yesterday. "I got food poisoning on the plane over and needed an injection. It didn't help playing with a temperature. Anybody who has not had experience of these conditions is going to struggle really.

"Your concentration can wander at the best of times when it's not hot. But if you get flustered and hit some bad shots in this humidity it's hard to get your concentration back. It's probably the first thing that

Westwood starts his season at a best-ever sixth in the world two places higher than when he last played two months ago. He said he is not intimidated by his own success. "I don't bother with all the expectations on me. I have my goals and if I reach them I'm happy, and if I don't then I'm disappointed," he said.

Clarke, who by winning the season-ending Volvo Masters forced his way between Colin Montgomerie and Westwood at the top of the Order of Merit. has shed a stone in the past month and has not smoked since last November. "Tve been working out six days a week," he said. "It was very enjoyable putting the weight on, not so enjoyable taking it off," said the 30year-old Ulsterman. "Hopefully I will feel the

benefits - I have during the **Dractice rounds here. I need to** get another one and a haif stones off, but the difference already is that I'm not as lethargic as I was. My immediate goal is the world's top 10 [he is currently 16th). To do that I've got to win more and bigger tour-

### TODAY'S NUMBER

33

The age of the Bath centre, Jeremy Guscott, the oldest player in the England training squad named vesterday for rugby union's Five Nations' Championship

### LINGFIELD

1.5 Stancred Times 2.20 Comeoutofithefog 2.50 Kentucky Builet 3.20 Flying Officer 3.50 Kings Arrow 4 4.20 Loughanlea

STALLS: Inside except 5f & Im - outside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best up to 1m, aspecially for 6L Equitrack surface; telt-hand, sherp undutating course. Course is SE of town on 62029. Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: One enclosure 210. CAR PARK: Club 133; remainder free. FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS ELEADING TRAINERS: G L Moore 86-654 (131%), R Hannon 49-373 (131%),

M Johnston 48-272 (176%), G Kelleway 44-309 (142%). ■ LEADING JOCKEYS: A Clark 75-601 (125%), J Westver 68-307 (221%), \$ Sanders 65-563 (11.5%), \$ Whitworth 55-386 (14.2%). FAVOURITES: 722-2149 (\$3.7%). LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Sunset Harbour (1.50) and Kentucky Bullet (250) have been sent 270 miles. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Justinianus (visored, 2.20), Family Tree (4.20).

1.50 HONEYSUCKLE HANDICAP (CLASS F) 52,750 added 5f

| Ι.         | B-4321 HALF YONE (12) (CD) R M Flower 7 10 0 Dane O'Holl 3 B   |
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| 1'         | 3405-4 TANCAED TIMES (30) J Culinen 4 8 18   |
| 6          | 3405-4 TANCRED TIMES (30) J CAMBERT 4 B  |
| 9          | 006:00 RISE 14 SHINE (12) (CD) C Cyzer 5 8 11 G Faultmar (3) 9 B   |
| ١.         | 0600-0 KALAR (12) (CD) D Chapman 10.8 10   |
| ۱"         | - 10 declared -  |
| ł          | - In Section Co.   |

BETTING: 5-2 Half Tone, 4-1 Sumpet Harbour, 5-1 Dande ria, 7-1 Cameo, 12-1 Tancred Times, 14-1 Miss Synames, Rise "N Shine, 20-1 oth FORM GUIDE

Todays lower draw may not sust the strong-finishing Half Tone so we as the wide berth he won from here last time and he may struggle to beat the third, DANDE TIMES, this time. Ken Ivory's front-running 4yo has a good chance of getting the rails and may be able to repai

5-0500 JUSTINIANUS (9) (C) J Bridger 7 8 5.

255-08 SILENT PRIDE (14) G L Moore 480.

8 04-430 PRINATE SEAL (12) J Poulton 4 8 7

053-06 KAMAWA (7) A P Jones 580 ....

12 00-043 AMENGTON GIFL (12) P Evens 4 7 12.

14 064-02 TACHYCARDIA (16) (C) N Berry 7 7 12.

254-2 BAAJEL (9) D Coagrove 4 9 11......

QC-06 DIBOLA (2) J Walmunght 4 9 ft ..... 22200- KENNET (97) P Cundel 4 9 11 ......

KONTEURY P Cundel 49 Tl.....

E2030- MANSA MUSA (2017) M Charmon 49 11 .... 8 00505- SHANTUNG (48) K McAdiffe 4 9 0 .....

0-64 SATRIA (12) Ness G Kelleway 3 8 4 ....

trie, 20-1 Shentung, 25-1 Kintbury, 33-1 Dibala

tog. 8-1 Tachycardia, 10-1 Pericles, Dark Mexace, 14-1 others

BETTING: 7-2 Alemeio, 4-1 Speedy Classic, 6-1 Ivor's Deed, 7-1 Comeoutothe-

FORM GUIDE

This looks like a good opportunity for ALAMEIN who was quite eye-

catching over 1m here last week (could have finished a lot closer with

a clear run) and will not be inconvenienced by the drop back to 71.

The obvious danger is Speedy Classic who saldom runs a bad race

2.50 WHY NOT SPONSOR A RACE MAIDEN

6 KENTUCKY BULLET (USA) (23) M Johnston S B 4................ Fanning 6

BETTRAG: 2-1 Manua Musea, 5-2 Ganjil, 9-2 Kennet, 8-1 Kentucky Bullet, 7-1 Se-

FORM GUIDE

This modest malden can go to BAAJIL, who showed improved form

upped in trip over today's C&D last week, Mansa Musa and Kennet.

have every chance if reproducing their turf form while Kentucky Bul-

let is Rely to do better with his debut experience behind him, but the

STAKES (D) £5,250 added 1m 2f

| 2.20 WISTERIA CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £2,750 added 7f  010-24 SPEEDY CLASSIC (21) (CD) M Heaton-Bis 1185 | 3.20 ARENA LEISURE PLC STAKES (CLASS C) £9,000 added 1m  1 50000 STEAMROLLER STAKEY (168) (C) K Burke 6 102 S Whitesofth 1 2 30535 GRALIANNO (166) (CD) N Librototh 49 10 T G MicLaghila 2B 3 23-488 ITALIAN STAPPONY (1) (C) F Earrs 59 10 C Cogán (7) 4 V 4 6-420 MAWKAB (7) (CD) G Kellevary 4 B 10 P Fredericks (7) 3 V 5 24-11 HYING OFFICER (15) (C) Sir M Prescott 3 8 7 C Naster 5 _ 5 declared - BETTING: 4-6 Flying Offices, 7-2 Graliveno, 11-2 Steamroller Stanly, 8-1 Italian Systophony, 33-1 Membrab |
|--|---|
| 560-55 DARK MENACE (17) (D) E Wheeler 7 8 7  | FORM GUIDE  |
| 04-430 PRINATE SEAL (12) J Pouton 4.87   | The big question is whether the step up to a mile will find out FLY-  |

The dig question is whether the step up to a max we think of PTCER who is clearly one of the top performers on sand at 86/71. However with two of his main rivels returning from a long break he may not need to be at his best today snyway. Despite yesterday's Woherhampton disappointment, italian Sympohony may be the best option for those wanting to oppose the favourite.

3.50 DON LAING HAPPY RETIREMENT HANDICAP (D) £5,250 added 1m 2f 

SETTING: 11-4 Kings Arrow, 3-1 Barbason, 5-2 Master Caster, 5-1 Totom, 8-1 Anals Ku, 10-1 Sold Oriental, Rol De Danse FORM GUIDE

There has to be a doubt about Barbason over today's longer trip, while Ansak-fur has not been at his best for some firm and Bold Oriental is the from reliable. However today's C&D brought out the best in TOTOM when she won a melden in November that has worked out well and she can confirm her superiority over Kings Arrow.

4.20 JAPONICA HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,500 added 3YO 7f 0-St GRAND CORONET (14) (CD) T ME 97 .... 

FORM GUIDE Loughanies and Dismond Geometrome here on the back of good efforts and have to be respected, but GRAND CORONET could just be a cut above them all and has a decent draw today.

### **TOMORROW**

scored two early tries.

Are the France rugby union team good enough to win a third successive Grand Slam? Richard Williams reports from Paris

| SKI HOTLINE Detailed independent snow and  | Resort Area open ANDORRA                | Comment                                | Slope:<br>Lwr | (cm)<br>Upr | Last<br>Snow | Temp      | Foreçast                 |
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| detailed four-page summary of<br>indictions in 180 resorts<br>ix <b>0906 55 00 601</b>             | Verbier95%<br>UNITED STATES             | Avalanche danger                       | 95            | 150         | 29.1         | -6C       | Cold. clear              |
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> HODDLE'S AT PLAYERS

Sacked England coach may be in demand on Continent but his agent rules out immediate move to Monaco

# Hoddle targets swift return to Premiership

GLENN HODDLE does not blame his BY NICK HARRIS ignominious departure as the England coach on the media and he hopes to be back in management, possibly in the Premiership, within a few months.

"At the end of the day Glenn's a football manager, a brilliant coach. and I'd hope there'd be a number of Premier League clubs in situations [in the near future] where he could do a job for them," Dennis Roach, Hoddle's agent, said yesterday.

Roach added that Hoddle did not feel he had lost his job through being hounded by an unjust press. "It was not the English press or the football press that got Glenn out of the job," Roach said, referring to the way the media had reported Hoddle's beliefs in reincarnation.

Glenn made a mistake. What got him out of the job was an error of judgement." Hoddle's immediate priority is to take a holiday. Roach said. "Then he'll come back and review the situation."

Suggestions that Hoddle is due to leave for Monaco today to discuss a new position were untrue, Roach added. "It's never a no-no, but there is nothing in that situation at the moment," he said.

The French side have shown an interest in Hoddle's services in the past and since releasing their coach, Jean Tigana, have struggled to per- es how he deals with the media. form consistently under the caretaker, Claude Puel, whose contract expires in the summer.

Hoddle enjoyed success as a player with Monaco under Arsène Wenger - including winning the French championship in 1988 - and aithough the club themselves have denied any current interest in Hoddle, an approach later in the year remains possible.

Equally feasible would be an approach from Spain. Pressure has been growing in recent days on Guus Hiddink, the coach at Real Madrid, a chib that offered Hoddle a job before he took the England reins from Terry Venables.

Hiddink offended Real supporters with a recent interview in which he said: "Real Madrid are a famous club with a huge reputation but little

money and large debts."

Should the former Netherlands coach leave. Hoddle may be shortlisted to take over a side that will include Steve McManaman come the summer. Hoddle's current predicament is unlikely to damage his prospects in Spain, where top clubs care less about any eccentricity in their coaches' views than their ability to secure points.

As one leading Spanish newspaper's football editor said yesterday: "Our own coaches, including Javier Clemente [the former national coach, now with Real Betis], say stupid things from time to time. But however weird their personal opinions, no one cares until they start losing matches."

Controversial departures do not necessarily prevent successful reincarnations in the game, as George Graham proved with a return to management after a year in exile. For Hoddle's part, doubts over his image – especially his views on faith healing and his attachment to Eileen Drewery - should not hinder his career as long as he reapprais-

Max Clifford, the public relations expert, is no stranger to rehabilitating reputations, and he said Hoddle simply needs guidance on how to conduct himself. "He'll be back in football, back in management," Clifford said. "It won't be long."

Clifford said he would advise Hoddle to be clear in his own mind what messages he wanted to put across to the media before he gave interviews. "The first thing I'd do (if he was a client] is sit him down and draft a Parkinson-style interview. I'd say to him No Glenn, don't say What goes around, comes things that way, you're just confusing people.' You'd have to teach him to play that [PR] game. Having

done that he could start putting the record straight."

Clifford added that Hoddle should not go abroad searching for work if his motivation is merely to escape pressure. "Then you're throwing in the towel. You're not standing up to be counted. Glenn has got to clear up the current mess and then he's got loads of options."

England managers since the war have had mixed experiences in their post-international years, Sir Alf Ramsey managed Birmingham for a year between 1977 and 1978 and then retired, Don Revie never returned to the English game after deserting the national side and taking a job in Saudi Arabia, and Ron Greenwood retired

Of the last three managers, Bobby Robson has been the most successful, winning domestic titles with PSV Eindhoven and Porto, as well as managing Sporting Lisbon and Barcelona, where he won the Cup-Winners' Cup, but he has not (yet) tried his hand back on the domestic scene. Graham Taylor went to Wolves and is currently doing good things at Watford (for a second time), while Terry Venables experienced little but trouble at Portsmouth and Crystal Palace. His stint in charge of the Australian national side, which ended with defeat to Iran in a World Cup qualifying playoff, was his post-England high point.

This range of experiences gives a taste of the options, domestic and international, that might await Hoddle. Dennis Roach anticipates his client will receive offers from a wide range of potential employers, and does not discount a job in England outside the top flight. Hoddle's time at Swindon, he said, had been "some of his happiest in the game." Wherever Hoddle works next, Roach is confident it will be in coaching, and confident it will be soon. "He'll be back," he said.

around, especially in football Additional reporting by



Glenn Hoddle appears briefly outside his home in Berkshire yesterday

Appearances plus Subsitum Campbell ... ... Gascolene Also called up but not capped Stone, Draper, Howey, Platt, Marteo. May, Bowyer, Scales, Eadle, Clark, Heskey, Hislop, Pressman, Parlour, R Wright. Goals: Shearer 12 (2 pen). Sher-

Ingham 5 (1 pen), Wright 4, Scholes 4, Owen 4, Gascoigne 2, Fowler 2, Anderton 2, Merson 2. L Ferdinand 1, Lee 1, Barmby 1 Beckham 1, Southgate 1.

TYPICAL HODDLE ENGLAND TEAM (3-5-2): Seamon; G Neville. Southgate, Campbell: Beckham, Gascoigne, Ince, Batty, Le Saux: Shearer, Sheringham.

# McAllister praises Wilkinson's ways

HOWARD WILKINSON will bring a BY ALAN NIXON new set of beliefs to the job of England manager - some good old-fashioned Yorkshire work ethic topped up with an addiction to fitness.

No one knows the man who has filled Glenn Hoddle's tracksuit better than the Scotland captain, Gary McAllister, the midfield general of his title-winning Leeds team. McAllister believes he owes more than his Championship medal to the experienced manager who has stepped into the breach. If it was not for Wilkinson, his career might be over.

Still playing in the top flight at 34, McAllister said: "Howard gave me fitness I didn't have. My body changed at Leeds even though I was 25 when I got there. He made us appreciate that if you can run longer

a good player and can run longer, it's better still.

"Pre-season training was like nothing I had ever seen before. There was an awful lot of thought going into it, it was structured. You didn't just run up to a tree and back again. Howard was right. That has stood me in good stead and probably lengthened my career. We do the same stuff at Coventry now because Gordon Strachan [Coventry's manager] had obviously listened to him."

McAllister claimed Wilkinson was something of a visionary in that department and is unhappy that Arsenal's manager, Arsène Wenger, took praise for the same ideas when he won the Double. He said: "It was you have a better chance. If you are an insult to hear Arsenal's methods

special diets, introduced us to creatine and worked on stretching exercises years ago. Howard is an ultra-professional. I think it all goes back to that Yorkshire work ethic, he let you know you needed an honest

day's work for an honest day's pay. "It was new to me because I had been under David Pleat at Leicester where they would rather draw 4-4, play total football and entertain than win 1-0 and bore. I learned that results are what matter. It could be a dog of a game for 89 minutes but then you score one and win. That was your job. That suggests he is ty of banter about and it was a happy

enough place." McAllister is also sure that Wilkinson's lack of experience at the things, he will be good at it."

were new. Howard had brought in top international level will not be a handicap when the critics start to look for ammunition. He said: "There are so many big-name players who have tried and failed at management that the argument doesn't really work any more.

"Arsène Wenger has never won medals but is at the top of his profession. Howard will not get fazed or worry about handling top players, but it would be a help to bring in a

"Howard won't be able to teach these players new tricks like Glenn Hoddle could, so he does need an ex-England man beside him. David dour - but he's not. There was plen- Platt did that before at youth level and could be the man. I hope Howard enjoys working with the best plavers in England. I think, like most other

| ENGLAND MANAGER    |      |      |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------|------|------|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|                    | . c  | H    | L    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| H Wilkinson        | 11-8 | 5-4  | 5-4  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| T <b>Vesa</b> bles | 5-2  | 3-1  | 5-2  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| K Keegan           | 4-1  | 4-1  | 4-1  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| R Hodgson          | 6-1  | 6-1  | 6-1  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| D Platt            | 8-1  | 10-1 | 10-1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bryan Robson       | 11-2 | 10-1 |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| J Gregory          | 16-1 | 12-1 | 12-1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bobby Robson       | 25-1 | 25-1 |      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A Wenger           | 20-1 | 12-1 | 25-1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| M O'Neill          | 28-1 | 20-1 | 25-1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| G Houllier         | 33-1 | 25-1 | 33-1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| G Graham           | 33-1 | 33-1 | 50-1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| D Pleat            | 28-1 | 50-1 | 25-1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| P Reid             | 50-1 | 25-1 | 50-1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A Ferguson         | 50-1 | 50-1 | 66-1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| R Gelik            | 66-1 | 33-1 | 66-1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

C Coral, H William Hull, L Lacibrokes

# When smiling came back in fashion

first congratulatory call came from Joe Mercer. "My advice is never to trust anyone in the game," the new incumbent at the Victoria Ground was told, "and when I put down this phone don't trust me either."

Rubbish, of course. Mercer was one of the gentlemen managers who helped far, far more than he ever hindered and, when the Football Association had to find someone to trust in the wake of Alf Ramsey's dismissal as England's manager in 1974, it was to "Genial Joe" that it

At the age of 59, he was suddenly projected from being a successful former club manager to looking after England in what was arguably even more traumatic a time than the current post-Glenn Hoddle muddle.

A climate of crisis reigned that early summer after the removal of Ramsey, the winner of the World Cup in 1966 and creator of arguably the finest modern national side four years later. A huge void was left which Mercer was asked to fill while the FA negotiated for a successor. He did so with a huge beam on his

face, lifting the gloom almost as soon as he walked into Lancaster Gate. It was a charm offensive that owed nothing to spin doctors or PR executives, but Mercer's good instincts. He knew a sense of shock pervaded the nation in the wake of failure asperated of Exeter or frustrated of Mercer: Genial stop-gap

The only previous England caretaker, Joe Mercer, did the job with some style after the exit of Alf Ramsey. By Guy Hodgson

Alec Lindsay was a case in point.

Mercer was short of a left-back and chose the good but not great Liverpool defender because of his demeanour. "He always played with a smile on his face," the manager reasoned later. "I thought he'd be a good man to have in the dressing-room." Undoubtedly the knowledge that

he was not being considered as a permanent appointment - negotiations were going on with Ramsey's ultimate successor, Don Revie, almost immediately - eradicated pressure, but Mercer could hardly be faulted for lack of boldness in his selections.

In his first match in charge, a 2-0 win over Wales in Cardiff, he made Emlyn Hughes captain and gave Leicester's Keith Weller his debut in an attacking line-up unfettered by rigid tactical restraints that also included Stan Bowles, Kevin Keegan and Mike Channon. Later in his seven-game tenure he gave Frank

Worthington the first of his eight caps. It was heady, exciting stuff that made the rest of the world regret England's absence from the 1974 World Cup finals in Germany, never mind exthe occasional bitterness and negativity of Ramsey's final days.

of a lengthy career was the more remarkable because he had failed as a manager many years before. The



In the News Of The World Football Annual of 1974-75, Frank Butler wrote: "The side played with a new freedom, without tension, and even England's most severe critics agreed the team would have done well in the World Cup."

Mercer's success in the twilight



after a decade of England success Fulham. If nothing else, it was a reaminer of three championships and and be deliberately chose players to minder that football could be fun after an FA Cup with Everton and Arsenal as a player, he was sacked by Aston Villa in the early 60s and the

impact was so great on him that he

was seriously ill. He considered retiring to run a grocery business, but was persuaded to return the game by Manchester City in 1965 where his shrewdest move was to pluck a dynamic young coach from Plymouth Argyle, Malcolm Allison, and appoint him his assistant.

It was an inspired choice. Before Allison tired of being No 2 and had Mercer quietly kicked upstairs, the older man's geniality and diplomacy became the perfect foil for the brashness and tactical innovation of the apprentice, and the championship was was won in 1968, the FA Cup a year later and the European Cup-Winners' Cup and the League

Cup in 1970.
"When Joe Mercer and I were friends, no one in football could live with us," Allison recalled in his book Colours Of My Life. "I charged into situations like a bull, full of aggressive ambition and contempt for anyone who might be standing in the way. And Joe came behind me, picking up the pieces, soothing the wounded with that vast charm."

That charm could not save him from Allison's personal ambitions and Mercer drifted from his general manager's role at Maine Road to Coventry before England's call came. Picking up the pieces was precisely what he did in that extraordinary summer of '74.

His record was a respectable three wins, three draws and one defeat (2-0 with two own goals against Scotland at Hampden Park) and three of those games were away from home against World Cup finalists, East Germany, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, before gates of, respectively, 100,000, 70,000 and 90,000. Howard Wilkinson, who joined Sheffield United as an amateur in

1958, the same year Mercer left the club to manage Villa, and who is temporarily in charge of England after Hoddle's dismissal, would be more than happy with a record like that. Sadly, the smile of Mercer's time

was succeeded two months later by the worried frown - and a shambolic attempt to qualify for the 1978 World Cup – of Don Revie, who would lose the England job controversially after he negotiated a incrative deal to coach in Duhai

The closest Mercer came to the World Cup was as an ITV panellist in 1974 when he famously called Pele "Peely" and identified the tournament's outstanding player as "Jo-han Crufts". Today the media would probably hound him off the set.

### HOWARD WILKINSON: WORDS FROM A PREVIOUS INCARNATION

If I am ever reincarnated, I'd like to return as

Don't ask me whether it was a good game. It'd be like asking a surgeon if it was a good oper-

There's only two types of manager. Those who've been sacked and those who will be sacked in the future

I'm healthy, I've got a house, I eat well - how can I be unhappy? There's thousands with none of these things Journalists arrived from all

over Europe to meet him [Eric Cantona]. He gave interviews on art, philosophy and politics. A natural room-mate for David Batty, I thought immediately (before the rift with Cantona)

The England

manager has to fight the system and the press from day one A myth has grown up that football should in some way strive

to be entertaining. Sport is not entertainment. It's an activity for the benefit of the participants. If you run away from that you risk having the wrong pipers calling the

A manager is not selfemployed. If he's not in the directors' hands, he's in the

tune

players' hands. And if he's not in the players' hands, he's in the fans' hands (days before sacking by Leeds) Life has to be lived

forwards, but can only be viewed backwards (slogan on Hoddle's office wall)

### ... AND HOW OTHERS SEE HIM

Wilko for England! Leeds fans' chant during 5-0 defeat at Liverpool

There are bigger heads than mine in the First Division. Howard Wilkinson's springs to mind

At the end [of his team talks] we'd be thinking: 'Eh?' David Batty

Batty is a really good player, a good passer. Howard Wilkinson curbed his style at Leeds, made Batts more disciplined than expansive Kenny Dalglish 1992

There's a great deal of psychology involved in running a football team and Howard understands the psyche of the modern player better than

Howard Kendall, after Leeds' Championship season

His comments were strange and rather incoherent. One moment he would tell me that he wants me to know that I owe everything to him, that I am only a Frenchman lost in the English League, and at other times he would say

is nothing Eric Cantona 1992 Preparation was, and still is,

that without me, the team

an obsession with Wilkinson... At Wednesday, I got the impression he thought be could transform a squad of competent players into a team capable of competing with the best. He also believed be could transform the fortunes

of problem players Lee Chapman I know it sounds nuts, but I thought I was signing for

COMPILED BY PHIL SHAW

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Howard Kendall. He was the only Howard I'd really beard of Vinnic Jones

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PLAYERS

# Yorke puts United in the clear

BY GUY HODGSON

Mt. Thester United Derby County

MANCHESTER UNITED'S 100 per cent charge into 1999 was maintained last night - and this time they did not need injury time to secure a win that pushes them four points clear at the top of the Premiership. Dwight Yorke will do in his

current mood The £12.5m striker, who scored in the dying seconds against Chariton and Liverpool in United's last two matches, struck relatively early, after 65 minutes, to crank up the pressure on teams trying to stay with them in the champion-

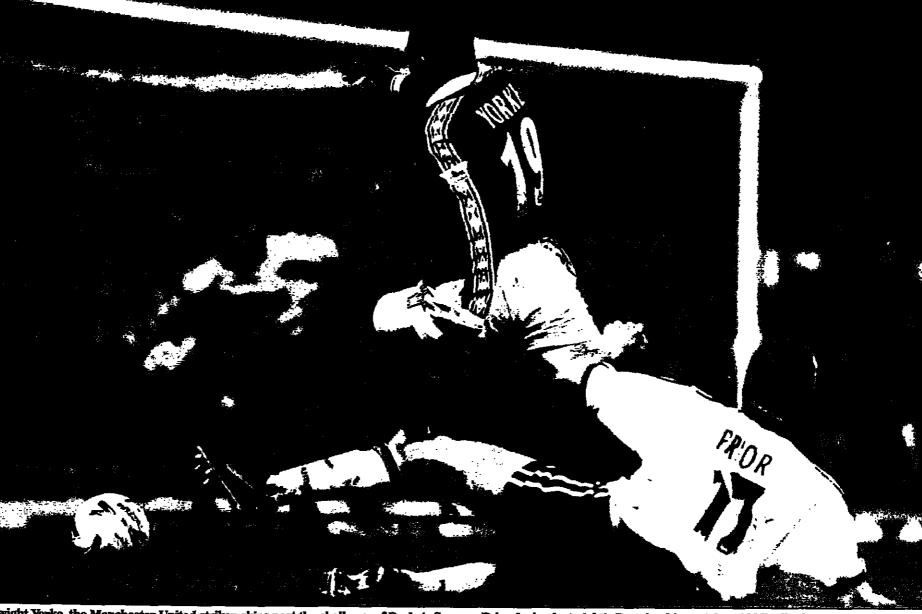
It was Yorke's 19th goal of the season and his seventh in five matches in which United have built a fair head of steam. Six sur 'essive wins is an emphatic response to a December of doubt and too many draws.

The response since the turn of the year has been points perfect but there was one thing to mar Alex Ferguson's delight: an injury to Ryan Giggs that will almost certainly force him to miss United's European Cup quarterfinal against Internazionale.

The Welsh winger lasted only 10 minutes before having to leave the field with a hamstring injury, a worrying echo of last season when an identical problem, also incurred against Derby in February, was identified by Ferguson as a fundamental reason for United's failure to win a trophy. It was the reason why he bought Jesper Blomqvist from Parma in the summer.

"A hamstring is a hamstring," Ferguson said grimly. "He'll be out for several weeks. It makes him very doubtful for the Uner matches. He felt a wee severe it is, but we'll put ice on

it and see tomorrow." Giggs' injury was a major dampener on an otherwise good night for United under



Dwight Yorke, the Manchester United striker, skips past the challenge of Derby's Spencer Prior during last night's Premiership match at Old Trafford

got the win Ferguson had demanded but it was by no means a straightforward victory, and for much of the night the home side were thoroughly confounded by Derby's tactics.

Jim Smith adopted a 3-4-3 formation that changed to 3-6-1 as Darryl Powell and Kevin Harper dropped deep when the need wings, forcing them towards a difficulty but it was by far Unit- the goal.

packed centre where Horacio ed's best effort in a first half that Carbonari, Igor Stimac and Spencer Prior were waiting.

It says much for the Derby defenders' performance that United were largely reduced to firing shots from long range, the first which was an absolute screamer from 30 yards from Jaap Stam after four minutes. arose. That clipped United's Russell Hoult saved that with

was more puzzle than solution for the home side.

Indeed, Wanchope almost put the visitors ahead after 22 minutes. Lars Bohinen flicked a delightful pass forward, the Costa Rican controlled with his chest and then shot low to Peter Schmeichel's right, finding the side netting instead of

United pounded forward after the break without reward and they were becoming increasingly anxious when Yorke finally found a way past Derby's defensive towers. Inevitably the route was central, but this time Nicky Butt's looped pass was neither intercepted nor was Yorke's run offside, and he tucked his shot just inside the post.

despite twice hitting the wood-

pressed for an equaliser they

were relieved to escape extra

time. "We played two wingers

and were overrun in midfield in

The match was preceded by

a spectacular firework display

to mark a takeover of Town

Derby had to abandon their entrenched positions and Carbonari almost got them a reward with a bicycle kick that would have troubled Schmeichel if he had made proper contact. Instead the touch was not true and it looped high enough for the goalkeeper to recover.

As the play stretched United, too, had their chances and Yorke seemed certain to get a

point cross located him at the far post. Hoult saved that at point-blank range - but the damage had been done. Manchester United (4-4-2): Schmeichel; G Neville, Johnsen, Stam. Irwin; Scholes, Keane, Butt, Giggs (Biomorist, 10): Yorke, Solskjaer. Substitutes not used: P Neville, Cole, May, Berkham

second when Blomqvist's pin-

secunam.

Derby County (3-4-3): Hoult, Prior, Carbonan, Strince Laursen, Bohlnen Carsley, Dorigo, Harner (Burton, 70), Wanchope, Powell (Hunt, 79). Subsequentes not used: Knight (gk). Schnoor, Christie.

dersfield's side on that occa-

### **Sherwood** to make £4m move to Spurs

BY ALAN NEXON

TIM SHERWOOD will become George Grahom's most expensive signing when he completes a £4m transfer to Tottenham today The Blackburn Rovers captain agreed terms last night after initially stalling on the deal to take him to White Hart Lane last week.

Sherwood headed for London vesterday to finalise contract details with Sours, although his salary is not likely to be the fortime he was expecting. In fact, Blackburn insiders believe he may even have accepted a lower wage at Tottenham than the contract they had offered, which

was worth just under £1m a year, However, Sherwood had ensured the move was inevitable by claiming Spurs had offered better terms and saving his farewells to team-mates last week. The manager, Brian Kidd, did not block Sherwood's exit and will use the money to sign a Premier League midfielder.

who could arrive at the weekend. Nwankwo Kanu has been granted a work permit, which means that the former Internazionale player, signed three weeks ago for £3m, is now free to play for Arsenal. The club were yesterday contacting him to arrange the Nigerian's return to London and he could be available for Saturday's Pre-

miership visit to Upton Park. The Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson is hopeful that his chib's plans for the future will help secure the signature of Juninho after all. Boro were not commenting any further on their move for the £10m-rated Brazilian after the player himself and his club Atletico Madrid insisted that he is staying put, at least until the summer.

'Yet Robson's confidence that the 24-year-old could soon be back on Teesside - rebuffing Aston Villa's overtures - suggests that a deal which would allow Juninho to stay in Spain until the end of the season could still be struck. "He's got no fears coming back to Middlesbrough," Robson said.

John Barnes, the former England midfielder, played a full 90 minutes in a 5-0 win for Charlton's reserves at The Valley yesterday afternoon. The 35vear-old Newcastle player, who has made just one substitute anpearance in the League this season, is on a week's trial and may

sign on loan until the summer. The Republic of Ireland manager, Mick McCarthy, has cleared the way for Charlton's Mark Kinselia and Wimbledon's Kenny Cunningham to face each other at The Valley on Monday night. McCarthy has released the pair even though the Republic face Paraguay in a friendly just 48 hours later. Both players will arrive in Dublin on Tuesday morning, "It's a one-off arrangement," McCarthy said. The Iran striker Mohamad Ali Karimi was sent off for kicking the referee in a 2-2 draw with Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City yesterday. Ali Karimi pulled the shirt of Toru Kamikawa and kicked him in the shins after the Japanese official had sent off a

# Oxford buried by Forssell

**DENNIS WISE Was** sent off for the

• :

fourth time this season - and for the second occasion since saying he would never be dismissed again - as his team made harder work than they should have done of winning last night's FA Cup fourth-round replay at Stamford Bridge.

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inctant to rely on another vourable refereeing decision to see them through, Chelsea responded positively this time to conceding an early goal and were pulling away from Oxford in something between second and third gear at 4-1, after their Finnish teenager, Mikael Forssell, had tested the strength of the netting with two fearsomely struck goals at the start of the second half. Red mist and a red card then overtook their captain. Wise threw himself to his left to handle a shot from Dean Windass that Ed de

BY STEVE TONGUE

Oxford United

Goey might still have saved and Windass put the penalty away. Fortunately for the home side, Oxford then lost their midfielder Paul Tait with a head injury. the tie finishing with 10 men on either side and no further goals. Earlier Wise had become the

first Briton to register a goal for Chelsea this season. That was overshadowed by an aberration that will now mean his fifth suspension, this one for four matches. "I will be lenient with him," said Chelsea's playercoach, Giantuca Vialli, who left himself out of the side last night. "It was an instinctive gesture."

Mike Reed, the referee, ruled that the deliberate handling of Windass's shot was only a vellow-card offence. Wise, though, had already been booked and was thus sent off.

Reed's dubious decision to for 11 months. In the 40th HUDDERSPIELD, OF the First award a penalty against Oxford minute roles were reversed as in the last minute at the Manor Ground for Kevin Francis's classic lob over a stranded goal-nents in this FA Cup fourthtackle on Vialli was worth more than £200,000 to the impover-

ished Second Division club, but severely diminished their hopes of coming through the tie. They swept into the lead regardless after only five minutes, with a goal almost identical to the one Chelsea conceded in the first match. Once again no defender was guarding the near post as Phil Gilchrist flicked on a rightwing corner and the ball went in off Marcel Desailly's arm.

Passing and moving much

more freely on their own pitch than on the Manor slopes, Chelsea were level within eight minutes and ahead by half-time, with Gianfranco Zola heavily involved on each occasion. For the equaliser, he held the ball up until Wise arrived to take possession and drive in his first goal

Wise sent the Italian clear for a keeper and a goal in off the far

The Premiership side, beaten only three times in all competitions this season, were in no need of gifts by that stage. They received one, however, 48 seconds after the interval as Nicky Banger, turning back towards his own goal, casually played the ball straight to Forssell. The 17-yearold, on his full debut, smacked it past Jackson from outside the penalty area, and repeated the trick six minutes later, from Celestine Babayaro's lay-off. Chelsea (4-4-2): De Goey, Petrescu, Leboeuf (Terry, 50), Desailly, Le Sauc Mor-ris, Di Matreo (Goldbaek, 75), Wise, Babayaro; Zola, Forseil (Necholis, 66). Substitutes not used: Newton, Hitch-

COCK (gN).

Outford United (4-4-2): Jackson; Robinson, Gitchrist, Warson, Powelt; Banger (Remy, 65). Talt, Gray, Cook (Beauchamp, 51); Murphy (Francis, S9), Windass, Substitutes not used: Wilsterman, Weatherson, Weatherson, Weatherson, Weatherson, Cook (gN).

# Thornley steals show

BY PHIL ANDREWS Division, duly pulled rank on their Second Division oppo-Huddersfield Town Wrexham round replay, but in a manner which will give the side they

headed by the millionaire busiface next, the Premiership nessman Barry Rubery, and the pyrotechnics on the pitch fizzled team, Derby County, few out almost as quickly. qualms about the prospect of a visit to the McAlpine Stadium. Huddersfield went ahead The Terriers threatened to after 20 minutes when Wayne Altake the game by the scruff of lison found David Beresford on

the right and the winger's cross the neck in a lively first half but was met at the near post by Marwork late on as Wrexham cus Stewart with a diving header to give Town's leading scorer his 19th goal of the season. Their lead lasted just five minutes. The full-back Dave

the second half," Peter Jackson, Brammer picked out Kevin the Huddersfield manager, said. Russell in the penalty area and His opposite number, Brian the Wrexham captain chipped Flynn, said: "People forecast we the ball over Nico Vaesen. Within two minutes the First would get hammered here after losing 5-0 on Saturday but we Division side had restored their played with a lot of character."

lead, Ben Thornley's 20-yard shot deflecting off a defender and over Mark Cartwright's

sion, it turned against them when their captain, Steve Jenkins, hit the post and Allison stabbed the rebound wide. Stewart also struck the woodwork twice, but only after Wrexham's second-half fightback had exposed the shortcomings

in the Huddersfield defence. Once the visitors began to push forward after the break their back four started to look distinctly uneasy. Russell had a shot hooked away and Ian Rush had a couple of opportunities.

The new owners will have to spend some of their millions on a couple of central defenders if their Cup challenge is to progress or if they are to renew their push for promotion.

THEIF PUSIS for PROMOTION.

HaddenSfald Town (4-4-2): Wessen;
Jenkins, Collins, Gray, Edmards: Beresford
(Barnes, 71), Johnson, Phillips, Thornies,
Allison, Srevent: Substitutes not used:
Hessey, Facey, Heary, Senior (gk),
Wreediam (4-4-2): Carthwright; McGregor,
Brammer, Spink, Hardy, Ridler, Chalk
(Gibson, 74), Russell, Ower, Rush, Cornolly, Substitutes not used: 5 Roberts,
N Roberts, Edwards, Walsh (gk),
Rufferee: P Jones (Loughborguen). head. But if luck was on Hud-

### Maier adds world gold

to his haul

SKIING

THIS TIME last year, Austria's Hermann Maier had acquired an all-conquering reputation but had still not won a major title. On Tuesday he was a winner at the World Championships in Beaver Creek, Colorado, adding the supergiant slalom gold to a tally that now includes every major title Alpine skiing has to offer When asked why he looked

so relaxed after his first world title, Maier said with a broad grin: "Because I had great sex with my girlfriend last night." No other skier has ever man-

aged to claim world, Olympic and overall World Cup titles in 12 mechs. Maier is aware of the end mity of his feat, but the 26-year-old, in only his third full World Cup season, is wondering what there was left for him to accomplish in the sport. "I have achieved everything now," he said. "There is nothing big for me to win any more."

Maier in fact shared the title with Norway's Lasse Kjus, becoming become the first joint gold medallists in the history of Alpine skiing. Austria's Hans Knauss took the bronze.

GREAT BRITUMN UNIDER-23 SOUAD (v. France, Birvalingham, Saburday): NURS: 60m: C Malacolan (Cardif), U Ugoso (Noodford Green); 200m: C Malacolan, J. Hanthora (Fam Solent); 400m: D Calanas (Sutton Coldiel), J. Baird (Ceethorpes): 200m: P Fisher (Millton Keynes), J Paritor (Unitabled), I. Baird (Ceethorpes); 200m: P Fisher (Millton Keynes), J Paritor (Unitabled), I Solen burdles: R Bailiffs (Sale), D Gressets (Newham & Esset Beagles); High Jamps D Graham (Leeppool), 5 Linggarde, 15 Edinburgh); Pole bands: B Filmt (Belgrave), S Shapsoon (Messee & Bath): Long jamps N Moorgan (Birchied), M Noogan (Birchied), S Wells (Havering); Rhyle Jamps; J Baddece (Birchied), M Romap (Birchiedo), S Wells (Havering); Rhyle (Birchiesti); Shar swifts: S Paylor (Leicester WC), M Namp (Leicester WC), Saction (Birchiesti); Skar swifts: S Paylor (Leicester WC), M Namp (Leicester WC), Markon (Birchiesti); Skar swifts: S Paylor (Leicester WC), M Namp (Leicester WC), M Namp (Leicester WC), M Namp (Leicester WC), M Namp (Leicester WC), M Namp (Leicester WC), M Namp (Leicester WC), M Namp (Leicester WC), M Namp (Leicester WC), M Namp (Leicester WC), M Namp (Leicester WC), M Namp (Leicester WC), M Namp (Leicester WC), M Namp (Gasgow), J Sander (Bachana), K Geer (North-Decon); Sobare E Dandes (Andowr), J Ward (Gasgow); 150ma; J Ingman (Barnisey), S Sonst (Gasgow); Solah; J Prattick (Moodford Green), S Causton (Colchester); High Jump: M Herritory, D Namp (Solansea), J Dandes (Shotresbury); Pole vanis: J Namp (Birchield), D Whiless (Aldershot); Auston (Blichield), D Whiless (Aldershot); Auston (Blichield), D Whiless (Aldershot); Auston (Barn, E Dandes, Causton C. Esseve, K Garn, E Dandes, Causton C. Causton (Colchester) ATHLETICS

Four days after the "Battle of Northgate Arena". Derby Storm's return to the Budweiser League went rel-atively quietly last night, although the after effects of their abandoned game with Chester Jets were evident in the with Chester Jets were evided in the 94-79 defeat against Thames Valley Tigers at Bracknell. Derby were without their England international York Williams, suspended by the club for his part in the fight with Chester's Shawn Hartley and a lat-er incident which resulted in the Jet's abusto Allean Troughton suffering a

er incident which resulted in the Jet's physio Alison Troughton suffering a dislocated jaw.

BUDGETSER LEAGUE: Manchester Giants 87 Edinburgh Rocks 83; Tharnes Valley Tigers 94 Derby Scom 79: Worthing Bears 87 London Towers 94. Steve Bucknall, the England international, has boosted his Contiternational, has obsections of the nental career by transferring from the Italian Second Division club Fabriano to the First Division team Reggiana, based south-east of Mi-lan just outside Parma.

Another England player, Ray Carter, has joined the Icelandis team KPI Keflavik after he was sacked by the Austrian club Oberwart following a dispute last month. Anthony Mason, the Charlotte Hor-

Jimmy Jackson, the best shooting guard remaining on the NBA's free agent market, has signed a three-year, Som (£3.7m) contract with the Portland Trall Blazers.

The Chicago Bulis have signed Hun-gary's Kornel David on a two-year contract. He will be the first Hun-garian to play in the NBA. NEAR'S EUROCLEAGUE Second preliminary round: Group H: Panachinakos (Gr) 86 Sara-LOV (Rus) 76.

BOWLS MREI SH MASTRES (Lianelli) First round: J Forey (Val) bt A Masthell (Sco) 5-77-6 7-6; G Harlow (Eng) bt Rees (Val) 7-4 7-3; Greenstade (Mai) bt Ming (Eng) 2-7-6 7-4; N Booth (Irl) bt G Robertson (Sco) 7-2 7-5.

CRICKET Northamptonshire have signed the Australian-born batsman Jeff Cook

on a three-year contract. However, the 26-year-old left-hander from Sydney, who has lived in England since 1993, will not be eligible for Champlonship cricket until 2000 when he completes his residential qualification period. Cook will play for the county's second XI this sum-

SHEPPELD SHIELD (First day of lear): Refealader Victoria 214 (MTG Blifet 54, B J Hodge 54; J N Gilespie 4–42); South Aus-rada 25 for 1. 128a 25 for 1.

BUSTA CUP (Flash day of Foor): Kingston:
Jameica 161 (M Persad 4-29) and 274 (N Per-ry 59; Persad 6-66): Trinidad and Tobago 299 (D Rampersad 84: D Mais 4-65) and 137 for 5. Trinidad and Tobago won by the mick-

CYCLING Alex Zulle, the Swiss cyclist who was part of the Festina team banned from last year's Tour de France fol lowing a drug scandal, relaunched his career yesterday with the Span-ish out it Banesto. Zülle is eligible to ride again on 1 May after a ban imposed by the anti-drug commis-

SPORTING DIGEST sion of the Swiss cycling federation last September.

Jast September.

ETOBLE DE BESSEGES First stage
(126km, La Clotat to Aubague, Prit 1 D
Lefeur (Fr) Casto 3hr 2mm i Sacc Jave speed
41.547ph); 2 I Voigt (Ger) Credit Agricole
same dime. 3 A Ychrill (Bell Lotto + 3bec; 4
D Millar (GB) Coffds; 5 N-B Larsen (Des) Lack
and Jones; 6 G Salmeron (Sp) Vitalicio all s/t.

FOOTBALL John Rudge, sacked by Port Vale af-ter 15 years as manager, has been offered the post of chief scout by Birmingham City, Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, has urged the club to spend "whatever it takes" to secure Rudge, saying: "I'd pay good money of my own to see the dossler on players he has built up." West Bromwich will face the Ja-malcan national side at The scorer Tony Brown. The Jamaicans will also play Norway and Sweden as part of a European Tour.

TRANSPERS: Tony Ettis (forward) Bury to Stockport (£250, 000); Devid Smith (mid-fielder) Oxford Utd to Stockport (free). ICE HOCKEY NML: Colorado 3 Boston 2: Toronto 3 Toma-pa Bay 0; Pittsburgh 5 Buffalo 3; Phoenix 2 Calgary 2 (of) SERCHORA SUPERLEAGUE: London Krights 3 Noodingham Ponthers 2; Sheffield Steelers

POOLS DIVIDENDS EITH EMOODS Treble chance: 2Apra £1,257.50; 23 €29.75; 22 €2.60, Half-dime result: 22 £4.651.15, Four draws £3.65; false homes £705.75; five aways £248.95. VERNONS Treble chance: 2Apra £357.45; 72 £6 £5.22 £1 55 VERSIONS Treble chass 23 £9.95; 22 £1.55. 22 69.95; 22 61.55.
221THE'S Troble chance: Zépte 665.55; 23
23.15. Pour amays: £11: eight homes
£25.50; four chance: £3.00; easy six £37.00.
All Draws Troble chance: Zépte 510.05.
BRITTEMS Troble chance: Zépte 533.40;
22 £2.00. Pour chance: £3.40; the amays
£3.25; eight homes £13.10.

RUGBY LEAGUE COLY MATCH: Halifax 16 Wigan 18.

RUGBY UNION Jeff Probyn, the former England prop, will turn out for Bristol, the Premiership Two leaders, on Saturday – at the age of 43. Probyn is director of rugby with the Jewson SKIING

National League Two South club, Barking, but has come to the rescue of the West Country club who are struggling to field a front row for their home game against third-placed Rotherham.

BREELAND A TRAINING SCHAD (for sensions 8-8 Pharmary); Backers I Millians (Harberth), T Backer (Sale), S Browns (Richmond), Lingd (Leitester), P Sempaton (Mospa), B Johnson (Goucester), M Allam (Morthampton), N Barrows (Lotton Inith), J Essus, (Bedford), P Banconi, in Choton Inith), J Essus, (Bedford), P Banconi, in Choton Inith), J Essus, (Bedford), P Removal, in Colours (Colours), I Millians, Pharmarker D Ball (Sale), D Crompton (Richmond), I Ball (Sale), D Crompton (Richmond), P Bancon (Goucester), I Mospina, Richmond, I Ball (Sale), D Crompton (Richmond), R Baller (Goucester), S Barrollans (Goucester), R Baller (Goucester), S Sharwing, D Share (Goucester), S Sharwing, D Share (Goucester), R Richmond, P Gustard (Leicester), R Starrollans (Bath), P Gustard (Leicester), R Sanders, P Sarrollans (Bath), P Gustard (Leicester), R Jenkins (Hareauris), S Olomon (Goucester), P Sanderson (Sale), G Sealy (Northampton), A Vander (Richmond).

WELSK RATIONAL LEAGUE Pers Division Merthy 18 Tonds 18. Postponed: UWC v Tre CLUB MATCH: Cambridge University 30

PA CUP

(Sporsored by AXA)
FOURTH-ROUND REPLAYS

FA UMBRO TROPHY THURD-ROUND REPLAY

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Combined Services XI 1 Ryman League XI & RYMAN LEAGUE Second División: Harlow Town 1 Windsor & Eton 1.

UNIDONO LEAGUE CUP Third-round replay: Geteshead 0 Farsley Celtic 1. DR MARTIENS LEAGUE CUP Second round: Postponed: Recing Cub Warwick v Sutton Coldfield Town.

V SUITOR COIDNEID TOWN,
UNLIET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE

First Division: Eastbourne Yown O Languey Sports 1: Selsey 1 Horsham YMCA 1.

nds Town (0)0 Wascon-s-M (0)...1 Pritchard 69 ton-super-Mare away to Hitchin

Forssell 32,106

WORLD CHAMPHONSHIPS (Beamer Creek, Colorado) Minmen's super-G: 1 A Méiss-nitzer (Aut) Imin 20.53sec: 2 R Gorschi (Aut) 120.56; 3 M Dorfmeiszer (Aut) 1 20.74. 4 H Geg (Ger) 1:20 83; 5 M Errl (Ger) 1 20.98; 6 I Kosper (B) 1:21 21; 7 S Berthod (Swit) 1:21.34; 8 C Rey Bellet (Swit) 1:21 46.

SNOOKER Basildon's Stuart Bingham, 22, be-came the third player to compile a maximum break in a professional maximum break in a professional tournament over the past three weeks when he hit the 147 mark at a UK Tour event in Swindon yesterday, His break completed a 4-2 victory over the Londoner Barry Hawkins and followed 147s from Jason Prince at Blackpool last month and Ronnie O'Sullivan in the Welsh Onen last week and Konnie O'Sui Open last week.

BUSINESS PAGES NATIONAL CHARPF-ONSHIPS (Northern Cirb, Manchester) Men's Brist round: 5 Parke (Yorks) bt A Stevenson (Orts), 15-6 15-2 15-7. D Cam-plen (Yorks) bt J Hopwood (Oven) 15-10 15-12

Man Utd.

Aston VIIIa ....23 Arsenal......23

Evertor ...... Coventry ...... Blackburn .....

SCREMPIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Divisions Chippenham Town 1 Brisington 0. Les Phillips Cup Third round? Yeovil Town 1 Brisport 1 (set; Yeovil win 2-1 on pens).

JEMISON WESSEX LEAGUE CUP Courter-finals dirst leg: Eastleigh 3 Bournemouth FC 1; Moneyfields 2 Christohurch 2.

15-12. N. Enjor (Lance) bt S. Handley (Coon)
15-7 15-12.15-9: M. Berrett (Norted) bt P. Genever (Sussey) 9-15.15-6.14-15-9.15-9. N.
Marthew (Norted) 15-12.15-2: 1. Beachill (Norte)
bt A. loes (Vorte) 15-12.15-2: 1. Beachill (Norte)
bt A. loes (Vorte) 15-12.15-10.11-15.15-7.
M. Chalomer (Lincs) bt B. Garner (Surrey) 15-13
4-15.16-17.13.15-9. T. Garner (Sussex)
bt / Dale (Northumbria) 15-6.15-31
Russett (Kent) bt C. Ionillason (Kent) 15-12
17-14.13-15.15-14. M. Cains (North) bt B. Ball
(Surfolk) 13-15.15-6.15-5.15-3. C. Walker (Essec) bt N. Dugan (Buck) 15-12.15-5.15-5.
5 Meachs (Berks) bt P. Lord (Oneshire) 15-11
15-9.19-9.
Woomed's Second qualifying rosend: V.
Lantester (Suffolk) bye. V. Botsmight (Lancs)
bt I. Hill (Derby) 9-5.9-0.9-7, C. Waldelshisot)
bt J. Durnall (Norte) 9-5.9-0.9-7, C. Waldelshisot)
bt J. Durnall (Norte) 9-5.9-0.9-1, C. Ogan(Essex)
bye. T. Balley (Lincs) bt K. Buckley (Esser) 9-2.9-4.9-6; K. Hangtwares (Merseyskie)
bt W. Maidand (Sco) 9-5.9-2.9-1, P. Nintmo
(Sco) bt K. Alikon (Norte) 9-3.9-9-3. C. Beaumont (Yorks) bt H. Mackle (Sco) 8-10.9-6.9-3
9-7. Pland spatifying rosend: V. Botowicht (Lancs) bt V. Lankester (Suffolk) 9-7.5-9.6-9
10-8.9-7; C. Waldel (Sco) bt C. Cogon (Essex) 9-6.9-1.9-3.7 Tabley (Lincs) bt K. Hangreves (Merseyskie) 9-7.9-1.9-2; P. Nintmo
(Sco) bt C. Beaumont (Norte) 9-3.9-9.9-9.

TENNIS MARSELLES MENTS OPEN Singles, first rounds R Federe (Swit) bt C Moya (Sp) 7-6 3-6 6-3: C Pioline (Fr) bt J Tarango (US) 6-4

FOOTBALL RESULTS FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP THERD ROUND

Ciydebank (0)....1 Ross County (0) 1 Nicholis 76 Tarrant 65

396
PONTENS LEAGUE Premier Division;
Nottingham Forest 2 Aston Villa 0;
Birningham 1 Manchester Utd 1. First
Divisions Barrisley 1 Grimsby 0. Middlesbrough 2 West Bormsich 2. Sected Division;
Sheffleid Utd 0 Shrewsbury 0,
Scarborough 0 Newcaster 3; Bischpool Verk
1 Third Divisions; Rochidale 0 Scienthorpe
0; Chester 0 Bury 3; Chesterfield 2 Darlington 1; Hartlepool 1 Valisall 1.

AVON INSURANCE COMBENATION First
Divisions; Gillingham 2 Bientford 3;
Wycombe 0 Fulham 9, Millingill 1 Ipswich 4,
Brighton 1 Tottenham 2; Cambridge 3 Arsend 3; Wolford 2 Southampton 0.
FRENICH LEAGUE CUP Second round:
Pennes 4 Troyes 0; Chateauoun 0 Monopolier 1; Amiens 1 Al Abserte 2; Nice 0
Toulouse 2.

SPANISH CUP Fourth round second less

Toulouse 2.

SPARESH CUP Fourth round second leg:
Mallorca 1 Real Beds 0 Mallorco yea 2-0 on
aggregate): Racing Santander 1 Athlete Bi-bao 0 (aggr. 3-2): Mallordo 2 Ecoprol 2 (aggr.
4-6); Villanesi 0 Real Madrid 2 (agg. 0-4). POUR TEAM TOURNAMENT (Larmen, Cyp): Cyprus O Beigium 1 (M Mpenza 75), Greece 2 (Medaldic pen 67, Georgatos 88) Finland 1 (Kaljasika 63).

bt / Boutter (Fr) 6-2 6-3
PAN PACIFIC WOMEN'S OPEN (TSINYO)
Singles, Finst roundly Mide Swardt (5A) of
M Saeld (Japan) 6-3 6-4. M I Fernandez (US)
bt I Majoli (Croa) 6-1 6-2. Straf (Ger) bt S
Reces (US) 6-0 6-1: E Likhouseau (Rus) bt
E Tarahoua (Ruf) 4-5 6-4 6-2 Second round:
M Hings (Smit) bt A Sugiyama (Japan) 3-6
6-1 6-2.
TAR AMERICAN PACENTS

M Hingis (Switc) bt A Sugiyamu (Japan) 3-6
6-1 6-2
LEA MEN'S RETURES TOURDAMENT
(Laude) Singles, first rounds N Weal (Harca)
b) B Elmood (Aus) 6-2 1-6 7-6 P Hand
(Berks) be B Lift (Showe) 7-6 6-4 i Knowle
(Aut) bt J Hermanszon (Swel 6-1 6-4; M Gregori (Stoven) bt M Steparnek (LC Rep) 7-5
1-6 7-6; R Lantergre (F-1) at F Cermals (L2 Rep)
6-4 6-3; G Elsener (Ber) bt M Belgrarer
(Neth) 6-1 6-4; P Sommer (Ger) bt J HermZahalana (Ger) 6-2 ret, L Friedl (L2 Rep) bt
M Hilton (Chestike) 6-2 6-0; F Rom (Swer)
bt D Sherwood (Yorks) 6-7 7-5 6-3; P Decort (Cz Rep) bt J Bonszewski (Ger) 3-6 6-6
6-3; Y Schulen (Rus) bt D Sloom (Cz Rep) 7-6
6-4; T Sprins (Norfold) bt J Settergren (Swel
6-2 6-0; M Merry (Neth) bt I Lipubck (Craa)
6-7 6-4 6-7. N Gould (Ason) bt E Erich (Is)
6-0 2-6 7-6. A Drunold (Swel) bt F Louen
Smet) 6-3 6-2. A Popp (Ger) bt L Child; (Ason)
6-3 6-3. A Popp (Ger) bt L Child; (Ason)
6-3 6-1 MOMERIAL

6-3 6-1.

LTA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT
(Sheffeld) Singles, second round: K Chisters (Beh 0: 5 De Beer (SA) 6-3 6-4. M Zéenoucous (CZ Rep) bit H matthews (Berles) 4-6
6-3 6-2: B Karpenschif (F1) bit M Mihalache
(Rom) 6-2 3-5 6-3. A Bachmann (Ger) bit C
Kremer (Ger) 5-6-6-4 6-3: K De Weile (Mem)
bit S De Wille (Bel) 6-2 6-0. C Laylor (Oxon)
bit L AM (Devon) 6-3 0-6 6-1. C Schuurmans
(Bel) bit J Lutrova (Rus) 6-1 6-3. L Wloodrofte
(Surrey) bit B Bruis (Neth) 6-4 6-3.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE Promier Dinision: Croclentiili v Ramsgate. AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Swindon v Norwich (2.0).

ICE HOCKEY

OTHER SPORTS





ENGLAND FIRED UP FOR FIVE NATIONS P22 COE'S DRUG OFFENSIVE P25

# Ferguson heads FA's wanted list

THE POSSIBILITY of a Scottish BY GLENN MOORE accent delivering English ral- Football Correspondent lying calls strengthened yes terday as a groundswell of support developed within the Football Association for Alex

Hoddle's successor. settle the issue as soon as possible, began discussing names prominent. The FA had consome within the organisation believe the Manchester United manager's qualifications outweigh the fact of his Tartan

While United had already Ferguson's candidacy as Glenn declared Ferguson off limits the 56-year-old, who managed Scot-Senior FA figures, anxious to land at the 1986 World Cup following Jock Stein's death, had made no official comment prior within hours of Hoddle's to the club's match at home to Hoddle Hodgson and Venables choice with the Government. departure and Ferguson's was Derby County last night. Not that are both available, but there are Ferguson is closer to leading this mattered. The FA is aware firmed it was prepared to seek that managers who rebut any a non-English manager and interest in public may not be so dismissive if actually offered the post. For that reason Kevin Keegan, though he said yesterday he wanted to stay with Fulham, has not been ruled out.

David Platt, Peter Reid and the caretaker, Howard Wilkinson. Like Keegan, Bryan Robson,

Wenger and Houllier have ruled themselves out of the running. Robson's denial is the most some worthy contenders, Ferconvincing. He turned down the job before it was offered to He would also be a popular reservations about them Bobby
Robson would be a short-term
monly realised. Born in Govan, solution, he is into his sixties but could be teamed with Platt, whom he gave an England debut to as a player and is probably too inexperienced to take the job at present. Reid has in-

ered whether he would want the do so until after Wednesday's match with France.

Although the list includes guson's CV is better than any. Glasgow, on New Year's Eve 1941, he was a tough centre forward who had a brief spell with Rangers. They were the club he followed from the terraces as a boy, but the associ-

East Stirling in 1974 before job permanently and would not moving on, via St Mirren, to force. They have won four of the Aberdeen. He led them to their greatest period of success, winning three league championships, four Scottish Cups and the 1983 European Cup-Winners' Cup. This array of trophies appears even more impressive in the context of the club's history. Outside Ferguson's reign they have won just one other league title and three further Scottish Cups.

In November 1986, he moved to Manchester United, where he struggled initially before gaining himself time with the 1990 FA

become the game's dominant six Premier League titles, not finished out of the top two in seven years, won two more FA Cups and one League Cup.

They have also reached the semi-finals of the European Cup but not won it. That is where the FA's biggest problem lies. United would doubtless fight hard to keep Ferguson think of the effect on their share price should he leave - but his relations with the board have not always been warm and if he wanted to go, he probably would But, while the footballing challenge of the England job

Bryan Robson, Arsène Wenger, Roy Hodgson, Bobby Robson, Fax. While Wilkinson has his Roy Hodgson, Bobby Robson, Feet under the table, he said yes-Terry Verables, Gérard Houlher, terday that he had not consid
He went into management at Cup-Winners' Cup followed a may appeal to him—though he year later, sparking a run of such has jokingly suggested in the past he would only take it "to get England relegated" - he is obsessed with winning the European Cup for United. If United overcome Internazionale in next month's quarter-final he may be hard to prise away be-

> This need not be an insurmountable problem. Wilkinson indicated yesterday he may be prepared to extend his caretakership until then if required. Since he and Ferguson are close, they could even work in as far-fetched as it sounds. did so part-time, combining the job with his duties at Aberdeen

ger but Ferguson is well aware of the squad's capabilities and has several of them at his club. In international weeks there are probably more United players at Bisham than Old Trafford.

The question marks concern his sometimes tetchy dealings with the media, especially the capital's tabloid press, his occasional outbursts against referees, his nationality and even his identification with United. Plus, would be want to subject his family to all the hysteria?

There is only one way to find tandem for a while. This is not out but the FA is not likely to ask him just yet. The priority is When Ferguson led Scotland he next week's game with France. However, it would be no surprise if discreet enquiries were made.

# Cole given chance to redeem himself

SO NOW we know. In his final BY GLENN MOORE hours Glenn Hoddle discovered forgiveness. In his last act as England coach, Hoddle had recalled Andy Cole, the man who had used the front page of The Sun to brand Hoddle a "coward" for not selecting him in November. Hoddle was, however, going to give him the chance to be involved in next Ince's return are enforced by Wednesday's Wembley friendly injury. Hendrie, who made a

In the months to come Chris Sutton and Paul Gascoigne, though probably not Matt Le Tissier, whose international days seem to be over, might also have been recalled from their banishment. That may yet happen, but it will not be Hoddle conducting the rapproachment.

There was a certain noignancy about reading his last squad list when it was issued at Wembley yesterday. It had shades of reading a letter from since writing. Here were plans that will now never be completed, dreams that will never be fulfilled. Hoddle had also called up Kieron Dyer, the talented Ipswich youngster. What role had he planned for him? And would Cole have played?

That task now falls to Howard Wilkinson, the caretaker manager, who said he decided it would be best to select Hoddle's squad as planned -"no additions, no subtractions" - in the interests of continuity. It is the right decision.

Any differences would probably be over the fringe positions. With one or two Poland, is unlikely to play. That

high-profile exceptions, Hoddle largely picked the right squads. From his last party lan Wright, David Batty, Emile Heskey and Lee Hendrie drop out; Michael Owen, Tony Adams and Paul Ince are recalled. All but Hendrie's absence and

| (Friendly v France, Wembley,<br>Wednesday 10 February) |
|--|
| Martyn(Leeds Utd)                                      |
| Wright(lpswich)  |
| Seaman(Arsenal)  |
| R Ferdinand(West Ham)                                  |
|  |
| Campbell(Tottenham)                                    |
| Southgate(Aston Villa)                                 |
| G Neville(Manchester Utd)                              |
| Adams(Arsenal)   |
| Keown(Arsenal)   |
| Anderton(Tottenham)                                    |
| Dyer(lpswich)  |
| Le Saux(Chelsea)                                       |
| Hinchcliffe(Sheffield Wed)                             |
| Beckham(Manchester Utd)                                |
| Scholes(Manchester Utd)                                |
| Ince(Liverpool)  |
| Butt(Manchester Utd)                                   |
| Merson(Asten Villa)                                    |
| Redknapp(Liverpool)                                    |
| Shearer(Newcastle)                                     |
| Owes(Liverpool)  |
| Fowler(Liverpool)                                      |
| Cole(Manchester Utd)                                   |
| Dublin(Aston Villa)                                    |
|  |

sprightly debut against the Czech Republic in November but admits he is now in poor form, will be in the Under-21 squad, which is named today.

Ince, who is suspended from next month's European Championship qualifier against

was Hoddle's intention, with FA backing, and Wilkinson is unlikely to dissent.

It is probable that Wilkinson will switch to 4-4-2, however, Most players are happier with that and, as he said at the FA Coaches' Association Conference in November: "My particular preference is for four at the back. I think the demands of the modern game... make it extremely difficult for wingbacks to cover the ground they are supposed to."

If he adheres to this, the only problem is on the left, where the lack of suitable players means he may be forced to push Graeme Le Saux forward and bring in Andy Hinchcliffe at left-back

Wilkinson said: "I have to decide what is achievable in the three days I will have with the players. I have not got a magic wand Ideally the fans will see players who are only happy to feel secure enough to express themselves. I am not going to be stupid enough to claim more than my share of credit in the event of a super victory, nor will I take more than my share of the blame."

As for Cole, he said: "In my view, he is a very good player, in finishing terms his record speaks for itself. It was no surprise to me he was included. It's a terrific squad. You'd be happy taking it to Aston Villa."

With respect to the Premiership challengers, the world champions are a more formidable prospect. Last night's football, page 27

# England's caretaker coach, Howard Wilkinson (left), faces the press at Wembley yesterday, accompanied by the FA's David Davies . Peter Jay

# Smooth transition by relaxed Wilkinson

THE LAST time Howard Wilkinson made a public appearance at Wembley he was booed off the pitch by Leeds United supporters after their team's abject League Cup defeat by Aston Villa in 1996, writes Glenn

Maybe it was that memory that sustained him yesterday for as he faced a media which. in many quarters, is being accused of "hounding Glenn Hoddle out of his job", he could not have looked more relaxed.

He spoke at length, leavening a thoughtful plea for England managers to be better supported by the Football Association with a dash of humour "When I got home last night my wife questioned my sanity – but that's nothing new, she does that all the time," he said.

"I could have said 'no' to the iob but I felt the downside was less than the upside. If we win [against France next week] I will be able to put England manager' on my CV, beat the world champions'. Then when the manager of Mongolia gets the sack I can send that off."

There was none of the fractious hostility which had characterised Hoddle's final press conferences, nor were there rambling references to spirituality. As a new man, Wilkinson was given a gentle ride but his manner suggested that, when it came to the political aspects of the job, he could be a

national team is a great honour the knowledge acquired by oth-

he said. "The bonour quickly disappears when I get into the details. At the moment my head is all over the place. I have a list of things to do with 30

items on it." Wilkinson looked to be relishing the occasion but said he "had not even considered" whether he wanted to apply for the job permanently and would not do so until after Wednesday's game, the result of which would not influence his decision.

What did he expect the mood of the squad to be when they meet up on Sunday night? "In my experience," he said, "players vary. Some form an emotional attachment to a manager. Some don't like him. Some just turn up and play." He said he had slept well on

Toesday night, only to be woken before six by the first press phone call. He added: "Tve seen how managers like Ron Greenwood and Bobby Robson have suffered. A lot is talked about the pressures of the media but that is the reality of life. There was a time in my naive wouth when I thought I could change that -I now know better"

With reference to that he said: "The FA's structures do not give the manager enough support: they let Glenn down. It is not an impossible job, it is up to the employer to make it possible." He then referred to improving continuity of staff most England managers bring "Clearly taking charge of a in their own men and discard

Resetzant on a namenance with the Fost Office .

record information about about mentioned and the establishment of a national football centre like the French have at Clairefontaîne. This, like some of the other reforms, is on the way, a product of Wilkinson's work as technical director.

He spoke to Hoddle yesterday lunchtime. "He wished me all the best and said if he could be of assistance to give him a bell. What happened to him is sad. It is not pleasant if someone loses their job. But it is the nature of the beast, of the job we choose to do. It does have a lot of advantages. In some cases the money's very good and it's nice to work with players, to go to football matches and win them, to see your team perform."

Wilkinson managed clubs from Boston and Notts County to Sheffield Wednesday and Leeds for 24 years to 1996. Had he missed it? "I haven't missed arriving on the team bus at a ground and seeing a 38-year-old man with a seven-year-old son mouthing obscenities at the window.

However long he reigns as England manager one hopes he is spared that but, if temporary becomes permanent, it would seem an inevitable fate at some point. That is the nature of the beast he now rides. That is what Wilkinson will be pondering as he considers his next move.

England succession

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THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

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6 Non-striker seriously

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10 Smooth passage, if long, penned by French

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bottom, adorned with royal insignia (7) 13 Slit left in carton (7) 14 Centre ended up van-

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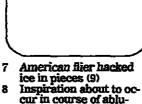
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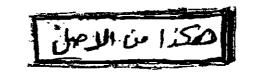


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18 Poem English class go over, extremely unreadable (7) 19 Relief mission, look, supported by doctor with small surgery? (7) Clown performing in silk

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# THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • **TELEVISION** 



Qana is the place Jesus turned water into wine. To this US resident it is the refugee camp in which he lost two sons to Israeli shells. Now America is forcing him to go back to Qana against his will

mind by the FVs David Davies

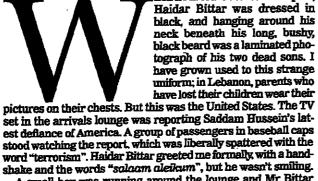
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A small boy was running around the lounge and Mr Bittar pointed at him. "This is the only son I have left," he said in an offhand way. The others, eight-year-old Hadi and nine-year-old Abboudi, were killed by the Israelis in the massacre at Qana three years ago. I looked around the lounge. I doubt if any of the passengers knew where Qana was - unless, of course, they knew their Bible. Qana was the place where Jesus turned water into wine. But for Mr Bittar, it is a place associated with blood.

He drove me in silence through the Detroit suburb of Dearborn with its Lebanese restaurants, its halal butchers, mosques and offices of "Islamic instruction". The Lebanese have deep roots here, and the Lebanese flag flies alongside the Stars and Stripes, But Mr Bittar has no reason to feel at home.

Indeed, if ever the word "injustice" needed definition, it can be found in Haidar Bittar's tiny, borrowed house. In a thick file he keeps photographs of his two eldest sons, taken just after their slaughter. "Don't let my wife see them," he pleads, turning away from Chadia. I can understand why. Hadi's body was torn apart by the Israeli shell that killed him. A few pages away is the application made by Mr Bittar's mother - terribly wounded in the Israeli attack on the UN compound on 18 April 1996, in which she and hundreds of other Lebanese Shia Muslims were sheltering - to visit America for medical attention. Pinned to the application is a rejection slip from the US embassy in Damascus.

A little further through the file comes the treble whammy: a letter from the US Department of Justice ordering Mr Bittar's deportation from America back to Lebanon. And there is one more dart. Mr Bittar and his mother are the principal petitioners among Lebanese relatives of the 106 Qana dead who have asked the United Nations to investigate "violations of human rights" by Israel during the 1996 bombardment in which Hadi and Abboudi lied. He would like "reparation" from Israel. And, as his lawyer Soints out, he fears for his life and that of his wife Chadia and surviving children if he is forced to return to his family home in Qana, just two miles from Israel's occupation forces in Lebanon.

Like many Lebanese who fled the 16-year civil war, Haidar Bittar moved to west Africa in 1976. Hadi and Abboudi were born in the Ivory Coast, as were two later children, Katia, now nine,

hen he met me at Detroit airport, and six-year-old Khodor. Two further children, Wuroud and Dalia (aged two and one) were born in the US. But the Ivory Coast itself degenerated into civil unrest in which the Lebanese were targeted. Mr Bittar had been a regular business visitor to the US and returned there, legally, with Chadia, Katia and Khodor in 1995. Discovering his wife was again pregnant, he applied for - and received - an extension of stay which enabled Chadia to have her fifth baby, Wuroud, in the US. Hadi and Abboudi were at school back in Lebanon and the Bittars decided to allow them to finish their educational year. Besides, his mother wanted to spend some time with them "before I die", as she told the family. Mr Bittar went back to the Ivory Coast in October 1995 in the hope of setting up his home there once again. He found the country still in a state of civil war. But when he came back to the US a few days later, his passport was seized at Chicago airport.

Mr Bittar was allowed to go to Dearborn, where his wife and children were. Hadi and Abboudi remained in Lebanon with Mr Bittar's mother, not far from the UN camp in the village of Qana. Mr Bittar still remembers with intense pain his last conversation with them just before their death in April 1996, via a mobile phone. Israel's bombardment of Lebanon - which it called "Grapes of Wrath" - had already been under way for more than a week and thousands of shells were falling across southern Lebanon. "Abboudi wanted to come here to see his new sister Wuroud, and

### BY ROBERT FISK

my mother wanted to go to Beirut because so many shells were falling on Qana," Mr Bittar remembers. "But I knew the UN camp was near and told them to go there for protection. My mother said 'Why not? We can walk there. No problem'."

It was fatal advice. Two days later, the Israelis - who claimed they were responding to mortar fire from a Hezbollah unit that had discovered Israeli troops laying booby-trap bombs near Qana - shelled the UN camp for 17 minutes, killing 106 refugees inside, 55 of them children. "My father called and asked me where the kids were," Mr Bittar says. "I said in the Qana camp' and he said something had happened there, that there were more than 80 dead. I called my aunt in Beirut and she said: Your sons were killed."

As he speaks now, Mr Bittar has tears in his eyes and he opens his hands out in a gesture of helplessness. He and Chadia embarked on a hopeless protest outside the White House. It was, after all, an American shell that had torn their sons to pieces, fired from an American gun by America's Israeli allies. "I stood outside the White House with a poster, and some people were sorry for me," Mr Bittar says. "But they didn't really understand. When children were killed in the Oklahoma bombing, Americans understood how parents suffered. But I am also a parent - I suffer too. And it was a government supplied with American weapons

that killed my children." With one of those fine distinctions which prompt a drawing in

of breath, the US Justice Department demands the deportation only of Haidar Bittar, his wife and the two eldest surviving children. The youngest - Wuroud and the sixth child, Dalia, can stay on, aged two and one - as they are US citizens. Mary Ramadan Mr Bittar's Washington lawyer, regards his treatment as an outrage. "My client and his family are in danger of their lives," she says. "The Israelis made it clear that if people don't leave their villages when ordered to, they feel free to kill those who stay. In the 1996 bombardment. Israel's violence was specifically aimed at civilians." Israel opened its offensive after a booby-trap bomb killed a child in southern Lebanon, prompting Hezbollah guerrillas to retaliate by firing Katyusha rockets into Israel. No Israelis died but Israel killed almost 200 Lebanese civilians.

"It took tremendous courage for Mr Bittar to file the petition in the UN - the only process available to him to seek redress for the murder of his children," Mrs Ramadan says. "It was not an easy decision, given his fear that Israel will retaliate against his family. They are entitled to the protection of American laws." Among the evidence submitted by Mr Bittar and other survivors petitioning the UN High Commissioner for Refugees is an article from the Israeli paper Kol Hair, in which the gunners who killed the civilians at Qana refer to them by the racist epithet "Arabushim" and suggest that their deaths did not matter

A preliminary hearing of Mr Bittar's appeal against deportation has set 1 November as a trial date for his request for protection under US refugee laws – which require his family to prove that they have a "well-founded" fear of persecution if returned to Lebanon. As for Mr Bittar's mother, whose arm was severed in the Israeli shelling, she remains in Lebanon without a visa to the US - even though a hospital in Detroit has officially said that it will treat her and provide her with a prosthesis free of charge.

She was able to provide the US embassy in Damascus with proof that she had substantial funds in Lebanon, and that she did not wish to stay in the US. But the American consul in Damascus wrote to her to say that: "Applicants who are granted visas must have good living circumstances in their country of residence... but at this time your circumstances do no not [sic] prove such commitments. Thus... we are unable to approve your request for a visa." If her "personal circumstances" changed, the consul said, she could apply again - but "due to the high demand on appointments for visas in Damascus, we can schedule only two appointments per year for every applicant".

In his petition to the UN, Mr Bittar has described the Qana massacre in dreadful detail; he cites his children's "violation of the right to life" and claims that the slaughter was an act of genocide. He includes documentation that an Israeli pilotless reconnaissance aircraft flew over the Qana camp at the time of the killings, along with cuttings from The Independent which first revealed the presence of the plane. He fears that the Israelis, once they know of his petition, will try to kill him and his family if they return to their village. And he now has 10 months before a trial that will decide whether he, his wife and two of their children should be sent back to the killing fields of southern Lebanon.

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### Racist policing

Sir: I would have thought, after the tragic Stephen Lawrence affair; that the police would be bending over backward to improve their standing with the black community

As a white male working as a

broker in the City of London, I have not been stopped or questioned by the City Police. I have, however, witnessed several incidents where car drivers have been stopped by a number of police, sometimes armed. In all cases the drivers stopped have been black and the cars expensive. This has all happened in the past 18 months. Before that, I worked in Holborn, outside the City boundary and policed by the Metropolitan Police, and cannot remember a single similar incident there.

None of this had directly affected me or my company, until last weekend. We are spending a significant amount of money in upgrading our computer systems. Last weekend was critical for the changeover. To lose one of our key engineers for over two hours was disruptive and expensive. Why did he disappear? Because he went down to his car and was arrested. For what reason? None has been given. He is black.

Are we serious in our attempts to maintain the City as the world's primary banking, insurance and shipping market? If we are, then the medieval approach to civil liberties and racial tolerance will have to change. The City Police are funded by the financial success of the City itself and should not be antagonising the many talented black professionals who might like to work there or do business

Our computer engineer does not wish to complain because he would rather forget the unpleasantness and in any case does not believe such complaint would have any effect. The situation makes me ashamed to be

COLIN CRIDLAND Crowley, West Sussex

Sir: I have from the moment of being elected to office taken a very public stance over the Stephen Lawrence murder investigation ("Met 'ready to take a beating' on Lawrence", 2 February). I have acknowledged that it was not handled as well as it might have been and mistakes were made, the real Achilles heel of course being the first review of the inquiry ordered by the then senior officers in that area. The report was signed off and accepted as correct, and passed up the chain of command and relied upon as a shield to deflect criticism. That act has let down every Metropolitan Police officer regardless of rank.

The inquiry by Sir William way forward, and police officers will never again be placed in the same situation - without sufficient IT equipment, trained users and officers - as those at the centre of

Metropolitan Police officers are outraged and angry that murderous racist thugs still walk the streets, but to put 26,000 officers on trial for something that didn't involve them and that they had no control over is another miscarriage of justice. GLEN SMYTH Metropolitan Police Federation

Joint Executive Committee London E14

### **Hounding of Hoddle**

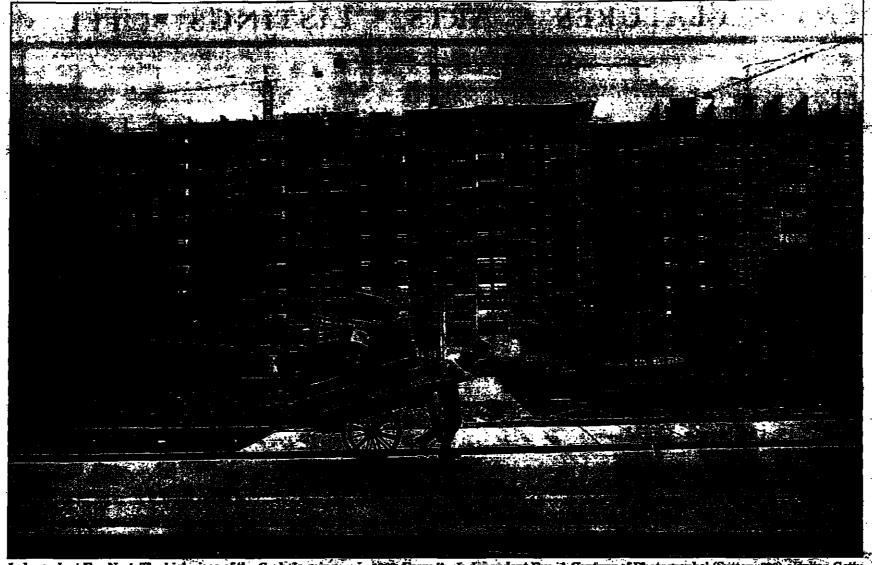
Sir. Poor old Hoddle, what has he done to deserve all this? Bad previous Karma perhaps?

There seems to be a great deal of ignorance on the subject flying around. Karma is a balancing mechanism, between negative and positive actions. It is not reward or punishment, Imbalance can be carried forward to another life. I have not heard Hoddle talk of punishment for previous sins although just about anybody else enting on his remarks has.

Most disabled people I know would say, "What a load of

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London EI45DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Independent Eye No 4: The high rises of the Gorbals going up in 1962. From 'An Independent Eye: A Century of Photographs' (Sutton, 220). Italion Getty

rubbish", or, "If I sinned in a previous life , I hope I enjoyed it."

What is more remarkable is our fevered response. Why are we so keen to show our compassion for disadvantaged groups by jumping on anyone who seems to be lacking in such compassion? It all seems to be tied up with our highly sensitive emotional state. People are "devastated" very easily, and in need of "counselling" for the slightest unpleasant event. The reaction to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales was a good example of this delicate state. People seem to be on the verge of tears most of the time.

Come on England, Since when have we been so precious? Where is our much-acclaimed stoicism? MIKE INGRAM Peterborough.

Sir: The FA should not have sacked Mr Hoddle over an issue unrelated to football, nor should they have expected him to keep his religious beliefs to himself. Religion is not a private matter, as this case demonstrates. It influences every aspect of the believer's life. At least Mr Hoddle was up-front about that.

What they should have done is insist that he take a course in Religious Studies and Theology. He would then have been taught to think critically about his own beliefs and those of others and he would have been introduced to fisabled theology – a new branch of theology in which persons with disabilities reflect on their own experience and the construction put upon the disabled person in various religious traditions.

Being forced to think through these issues properly would surely have been punishment enough. Professor ELIZABETH STUART Chair of Christian Theology King Alfred's College

Sir: In order to spare us all another disgraceful spectacle like the Hoddle affair, I suggest that the

next England football team manager be chosen by a committee consisting of the Prime Minister and his colleagues and the editors and proprietors of various tabloid newspapers. ROSEMARY L JOHNSON Byfield, Northamptonshire

### Off the dole

Sir: The percentage of leavers from New Deal returning to the "dole" is not 50 per cent, but only 3 per cent ("Blair praises New Deal", 29 January), A further 12 per cent are not able to work because they are on other benefits like sickness and incapacity benefit. Compared to the 100 per introduced the New Deal, I'd say the programme was proving its worth. The 58,000 young people who have found a job through New Deal so far would no doubt say the

Of the very small number who have left the full-time education and training option early - it lasts up to a year and most New Dealers are still on it - about half so far have gone straight into work and a majority of the rest on to other things rather than the dole.

Sir: "Men of the Irish

Republican Army march

civil war" (Letters Page

mmasked – unlike their

through the streets of Dublin

in 1922 at the beginning of the

picture, 2 February). They, at

least, had the courage to march

"followers" of today with whom

I suspect those of 1922 would

Sir: I must correct one point in your article, "Nasa takes off in search of stardust" (3

returned to Earth by the Soviet

robotic craft Luna 24, during

extraterrestrial sample was

find very little in common.

JOHN BURBOWS

February). The last

Finally, Damian Green's claim of an £11,000 per job cost is fabricated by loading all the investment up-front. It's a bit like dividing the whole cost of the Channel Tunnel by the number of passengers in the first six months. The true amount spent on each of those finding employment to date is around £1,000, although this

figure will obviously rise as young people who have needed more

investment through the options, come through and find jobs. It is too early to calculate a meaningful average cost per job because the majority of the participants are still in the early stages of the programme. But it will be a lot less than £11,000, and good value too. Minister for Employment Department for Education and

### Africa's agony

London SW1

Sir. Your report by Alex Duval Smith on the wars tearing Africa apart was timely ("Misery engulfs millions as Africa seethes with more wars than ever", 30 January). You called the fighting in Congo-Brazzaville

IN BRIEF

lace almost four years earlier.

Lima 24 returned a two-metre

core of soil from Mare Cristum

a nearly circular basin towards

August 1976. Apollo 17 took

the north-east edge of the

visible face of the Moon. The

core contained fragments of

îron-rich but titanium-poor

basalt, similar to some basalts

returned by Apollo 17 and to several lunar meteorites. ROBERT HUTCHISON

Sir: Before teachers can be

paid in proportion to their

Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire

a "civil war". Not so. Rather, it is democrats versus antidemocrats. The issues at stake

are freedom versus repression. The story is this. The former ruler, General Denis Sassou-N'Guesso, a Marxist dictator, was roundly beaten in the elections of 1992 - the first free and fair elections since independence 30 years earlier. Professor Pascal Lissouba became the first elected president, introducing "novel concepts like freedom of speech; a market economy, an · independent judiciary and, above all, autonomy at all levels of the country and the economy.

Sassou appeared undeterred by his election defeat, however. by force on the eve of 1997 elections, which he knew he would never win at the ballot box. Congo had achieved the highest per-capita debt of any country in the world after 20 years of his guidance. So why he imagined that the Congolese people would want him back - especially after a coup d'état and bloody power

struggle – beggars belief. Worse still, it is openly claimed by democrats of every political persuasion in Congo-Brazzaville

papils' results, thought must be given to the conduct of examinations. Teachers marking coursework which contributes to their pupils' results will have direct control over one indicator of their own

In a politician that would be called conflict of interest. If performance-related pay has the incentive effects claimed, the likely result would be a marked improvement in exam results for which Tony Blair would instantly claim credit. As a serving university teacher. I of course declare an

interest in this letter. Earl RUSSELL House of Lords

that France was behind the wellprepared and massively armed

coup unleashed in 1997. What is shameful is that so little criticism is voiced. Do we value democracy and civil liberties so little that we dare not speak out about the return of a cruel (and inefficient) dictator. who seizes power on the eye of elections and demolishes every pillar of civil society and every civil liberty in the country? Where is the freedom of the British press when it matters? ANTHONY McCALL-JUDSON Communications advisor to Professor Pascal Lissouba London W1

Sir: I thought the Alex Duval Sierra Leone was compassionate in a Graham Greene-esque sort of way but not serious about the political situation in this horrific war. This is a democratically elected government and its electorate trying to defend its capital city from an army of wellarmed and sadistic thugs.

I am in telephone contact with people still living in Freetown who tell me about the atrocities they have witnessed or heard about: whole families massacred in the process of looting; children and adults having their hands and arms chopped off; rape, itgoes without saying; schools and hospitals burnt down. Many people have been without food for days and live in constant

In my naivety I imagined that the West would be concerned about the fate of democratic government in Africa. England in particular "owes" Sierra Leone. The relationship is a long and intricate one. And what about the UN? Why do they appear to be washing their hands of this? Might it have something to do with the fact that Sierra Leone is of no strategic importance? Has no oil? Is aiready one of the poorest countries on earth? PAULINE PLUMMER Middlesbrough

### Hang fire on euro

Sir: Donald Macintyre (Comment, 1 February) argues that the Chancellor and the Prime Minister should "ratchet up" their commitment to the euro and state "the Government's firm intention to join." Mr Macintyre and other commentators feel it is necessary for the Government to go beyond the policy on which it was elected, which was further clarified by Gordon Brown with the five economic tests for entry. The policy remains both plausible and robust.

The last year has seen global financial crises, and there are indications that they may not be over yet. The euro is only one month old, and while many of us are confident that it will be a success and survive any future crises, I am not convinced that it would be wise or in the interests of the UK economy to indicate that we should unreservedly join, or

give a date for joining. The euro has no track record. To innounce at this stage that we should join, before the date for a referendum has been set, or give a date for joining would be folly.

What we need is an informed lebate, with those of us who are almost certain to be in the "yes" camp arguing the case for the euro and taking it to the country, not to the Prime Minister or the Chancellor

The public must make up its own mind eventually at a referendum. In the meantime ministers can prepare, and need only make a decision once the economic tests have been satisfied.

There is curiosity among my non-UK Socialist colleagues here in Brussels about the possible timing of UK entry, but I don't detect the impatience that I see in both the europhile and eurosceptic press in the UK. MARK HENDRICK MEP (Lancashire Central, Lab) Spokesperson on Economic and Monetary Affairs for the Parliamentary Group of the Party of European Socialists

### Save this duck

Sir: The working party on the introduced ruddy duck, whose advice Environment Minister Michael Meacher has accepted, are not tranking clearly ("Ruddies to be shot for mating with wrong ducks", 2 February). They advocate exterminating this duck in Britain as a way of protecting the whiteheaded duck in Spain. But if male ruddy duck interbreed with female white headed duck and produce fertile young, surely they are one species, and all that would be at risk is the genetic purity of a sub-species -perhaps not such a big deal.

And if the ruddy duck genes provide a more robust cross in the unadulterated white-headed ducks. that will assist the species to flourish in Spain. If, on the other hand, the ruddy duck genes are disadvantageous to the species, they will hardly persist in the population. CHRISSMOUT Anstruther, Fife

### Going to earth Sir: Paul Latham of the

Countryside Alliance (letter, 1 February) says artificial earths are not constructed for the purpos of breeding foxes. I shall allow hi peers to persuade him otherwise.

The late Duke of Beaufort, a former president of Mr Latham's organisation, stated in 1980 that artificial earths are built "to provide somewhere for local foxes to have their cubs: in other words for breeding purposes". AHB Hart, Secretary of the Masters of Fox Hounds Association, said in 1987 that they are constructed to "provide suitable places for foxes to breed". Albert Spring, writing in Shooting Gazette in 1993, stated that they are "used primarily as

breeding chambers". Officials of the Countryside Alliance really must make more of an effort to remain "on message". BEN STEWART League Against Cruel Sports London SE1

### Internet investment advice from beyond the grave

BILL GATES, the infant prodigy of Microsoft and general info-guru, said the other day that it was crazy to invest in Internet firms, as they were desperately overvalued and it was all getting to be a kind of South Sea Bubble. Ever since then I have had a series of hysterically worried investors turning to me for comfort in case they have done the wrong thing and put their money in the wrong place, so it is high time that we devoted a column to all your letters, faxes, e-mail, phone calls and postcards on the subject.

I AM amazeri that Bill Gates called this a South Sea Bubble situation.

Because I had no idea that Bill Gates was well versed enough in history to have heard of the South

I don't think he is. I think what appened is that as Bill Gates continued on his quest to buy up the reproduction rights to every known picture in the history of the world, he may have come upon some illustrations of the 18thcentury stock-market scandal known as the South Sea Bubble, in which worthless shares in the Pacific territories reached tremendous prices before collapsing. He may well have inquired what it was. Someone may have told him. that the South Sea Bubble was the Wall Street Crash of the 1700s. This may well have stuck in his mind.

I see. Actually, by a bit of a coincidence, I do have some shares in the South Sea Trading Company which have been passed down through my family since the early 18th century and have never been

sold, and I wonder whether they have any value now. Have you brought them along to show us?

Yes, they're here. They're normaily under glass in the library, but I got them out to show you... Gosh, they're jolly nice, aren't then? I can't remember when I saw samething as nice as this on the Antique Stocks and Shares Road Show'. You're jolly bucky to have this. You can see the wonderful detail of the printing, here and here, and the fantastic decorative border, and the different splendid

So bow much are they worth, about then? Absolutely nothing, I'm afraid

I wonder if you ean help me. I am an investor who recently snapped



**MILES KINGTON** 

'You advise one man to enrich himself by making another bankrupt: isn't that sick and immoral?'

up shares in a new Internet company called Netophile, for which I paid £10 each. The company has not rupt: isn't that sick and immoral?

yet made anything or shown any profit. What return can I expect on my money?

Absolutely nothing, I'm afraid.

You were a fool to buy. I wonder if you can help me. A year ago I started a new Internetbased company called Netophile, which promised to download New Age sounds such as whales singing. Unfortunately, we haven't produced anything yet, nor shown any profit. I have recently been offered a vast sum of money for the company. Should I sell?

Yes. Sell now. You would be a fool not to sell.

Hold on, hold on. You think the buyer of such a firm is stupid to buy, but you advise the seller to sell to him? You advise one man to enrich himself by making another bank-

Yes, it is sick and immoral It's called advanced capitalism. And the next! I am in charge of a small lobby

group which puts the case for the Net Book Agreement, which goveros the price of books. We are a small part-time organisation, open Wednesdays and Fridays, and Saturdays too, if Mrs Whittaker can come in then. Well, recently we got an offer of £3m as a takeover bid for the whole set-up, which is rather over the top if you ask me, even if you take into account the desirable address (quite near Hampstead), and I think what must have happened is that somebody thinks we are something to do with the Net and has got quite excited. What

would you do? Wait till Mrs Whittaker is out of the room and sell. Next!

Hello! It's Arthur Koestler here! You remember me? I was one of the world's greatest writers till I died! And before I died I left millions of pounds to Edinburgh University to found a chair of research into the paranormal and the after-life you remember? Well, it's all true! The after-life really exists! I am up here, with all the gang, Jean-Paul Sartre, Camus, de Beauvoir, and so on, and we have some great conversations! Of course, we also have Statin and Hitler and all the great brutes of history as well, which is very interesting! And now I hear that I am numbered also among the great brutes of history just because I raped a few women. Is this true? lell, let me say this -

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1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435 THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

### We must recognise the destructive power of the Net

AN AMERICAN court has fined anti-abortion activists \$107m (£66.5m) for an Internet campaign that publishes a "hit list" of doctors. The site was certainly highly offensive. Many websites are. This one, though, was a thinly veiled incitement to hatred, violence and murder. The website's graphics featured dripping blood, and "wanted"-style posters of doctors on the so-called "Nuremberg Files". The list of target doctors had their addresses attached. The names of doctors who had been killed in anti-abortion violence had a line struck through their names; those injured were listed in grey. Truly abhorrent. In a lesser vein, Andy Sinton, a Tottenham footballer, had his phone number posted on a site for Arsenal fans, leading to the inevitable torrents of abuse until his number was changed.

Clearly we are entering a new and disturbing phase in the development of the Internet. The technology has, indeed, moved at an incredible, exponential rate, faster than the ability of public policy-makers to cope with its implications. It is only 30 years since the first communications between computers started. Only in 1991 was "hypertext" invented, the device whereby users can jump from one site to another at the click of a mouse. The advent of the cheap, mass-market personal computer, the falling cost of phone calls and the introduction of free Internet subscriptions mean that the Net is already the definitive new mass medium for the early part of the next century.

We can also predict that it will continue to be used productively for the creation, publication and exchange of ideas and information. It will be used increasingly for commerce, as payment systems become more secure. And it will be used in ways that we cannot yet imagine. In the main it is a great liberating force, inherently anarchic and. in the best sense of the word, subversive. This, to anyone who believes in free speech and is excited about the liberating potential of a medium available to virtually all, is its most powerful characteristic.

But, as we have seen with the anti-abortion group, there remain legitimate concerns. The Internet, more than other media, is open to abuse. There are sites dedicated to the most vile pornography. Race-hate networks flourish. "Recipes" for incendiary devices and the like, posted by warped "bedroom bombers", can easily be located. And the Internet is a more powerful method of dissemination than the printed word or the broadcast message because, especially in the case of children, there are not even the vestigial physical controls which parents and others can exercise. All the more important to consider how policy makers should deal with its destructive potential. To st that a way might be found to control some of the worst excesses of the Internet is not to make an argument that the whole issue of freedom on the Net needs to be as someone else's version of their work "soar". Two Aus-knows that "And, to borrow a phrase, any ass knows that for censorship. It is, however, to make the case for exam-examined immediately.



ining what can be done to limit the real physical and psychological violence that this new technology can generate. State agencies cannot police it in the way that they do

books, newspapers or broadcasting. As the German authorities have found, even if one nation were to introduce restrictions, service providers and webmasters could "migrate" to more lax regimes.

There are some hopeful signs. Existing legislation can be used, and should in future be designed, to deal with electronic material. The very size of the fine levied on the American anti-abortion site will act as a deterrent to those with similar ambitions in the future. More and more Internet service providers are exercising control over the availability of pornography on their sites. There is some evidence that more and more self-control on the part of users may - just - result in an informal self-regulating ians and libertarians a

### In defence of the art of the plagiarist

PLAGIARISM HAS been getting a bad name. The most recent claim is that the plot formulated by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard, for the highly successful film Shakespecre in Love, bears striking similarities to a work written in 1941 by Caryl Brahms and S J Simon, called No Bed for Bacon. It has been admitted that Mr Stoppard knew about this obscure book. His friend Ned Sherrin says: "Tom certainly was aware of it. There are some similarities between the two. Tom has certainly made his version soar" And this, surely, is the point.

Many accusations of plagiarism have been made by those who, ripped on or not, have watched what they regard — First Symphony sounded like Beethoven, he said "any ass tralian playwrights, Andrew McCarten and Stephen Sin- it takes the talented "plagiarist" to make originality soar.

clair, attempted unsuccessfully, to sue the makers of The Full Monty for stealing their idea. Marks & Spencer has been accused of lifting haute couture designs and rendering them into similar but affordable garments. An artist has claimed that the memorable series of advertisements for the Volkswagen Golf, featuring ordinary people holding up amusingly contradictory placards, had been ripped off from her project. The Spice Girls used the tune of "It's Just Begun" by the Jimmy Castor Bunch for their enjoyable track "U Can't Dance".

Leaving aside the merits of these cases, we should reflect on what the world would be like without plagiarism. Indeed, the first literary reference to Shakespeare was as a plagiarist; Coriolanus, for one, drew inspiration from Phatarch's Lives. Today, much pop music would be in jeopardy. When it was suggested to Brahms that parts of his

# We encourage the mediocre, the mendacious and the cowardly

all have a nice shower and then sit down and discuss what we've learned from the Hoddle débacle. Do we perhaps agree with Margaret Hodge, minister for the disabled, when she says (as she did on Tuesday's Newsnight) that the demise of the England manager represents a "watershed" in the public discussion of disability? She to get a debate going on the subject,

and now there was one. Well that's good, isn't it? Not that Margaret herself had ever called for Hoddle to go. Oh dear, no. As she told Jeremy Paxman, that was all strictly a matter for the FA. She had merely offered the opinion that it was "inappropriate" that someone expressing the views that Hoddle had expressed should hold the office of, say, England ranager. The FA, as it turned out, had a eed. And in saying this she had been in tune with a public opinion that was overwhelmingly offended by Hoddle's remarks. Polis, she revealed,

had said so. Readers will make what they will of Ms Hodge's strange reluctance to accept part of the credit for Hoddle's departure, but they should be careful with her polling evidence. The only polls that I can discover on this subject were those phone polls (where self-selecting readers phone in) carried out by The Sun, The Express, and The Guardian on its Internet site. These are not usually cited by ministers when making careful evaluation

of public opinion. But if Ms Hodge had not been after

known as "Europe's powder

keg", are once again facing

war. However, Washington has

been put into an awkward

situation after its military

ALL RIGHT, team. The match has the head of Hod, what about the been played; we've got the result. Let's Nationwide Building Society? The Nationwide has sponsored the FA to the tune of £15m so far Mike Lazenby, the society's marketing manager, told newspapers on Tuesday: "The England boss has a duty to ensure his views do not have a damaging impact on the FA, England players, or sponsors. That was what we felt had happened in the situation. We have made had, she said, been trying for months it clear that we are not prepared to accept anything that brings the Nationwide name into disrepute."

Why had Nationwide "made it clear" to the FA? Because, said Mr Lazenby, "a number of our members were distressed by the reported comments". Now, as it happens, I am both a borrower and a lender with Nationwide, and I do not remember being canvassed for my views on the Hoddle situation by Mr Lazenby. Perhaps he can supply us with the details of those who did. And then again, perhaps he can't.

The FA itself, a model of fairness and rectitude, had taken no notice of all this. It had, according to its own account, spent from Saturday through to Tuesday listening to Hoddle's explanation, but finally concluded that his position had "become untenable". But on Tuesday night on Radio 5 Live, the BBC's sports correspondent and presenter, Brian Alexander, let slip that as early as Sunday afternoon several sports journalists had been briefed that Hoddle was to be sacked.

This is beginning to sound like a modern witch hunt anatomised: the press, the minister, the moneybags and the employer. There will be Amer-



DAVID **AARONOVITCH** 

The issue of disabilities looks more like an excuse for dismissing Hoddle than the reason

icans, who lived through the blacklisting period, who will recognise how all these forces can combine to rob a man of his living.

Hoddle was not a Communist. His offence was to give offence. The wrath of everyone in this country who is registered disabled was called down upon his head. Most of the disabilities groups said that he should go because he had insulted the people on whose behalf they work. They had, it is true, discovered the extent of this offence remarkably quickly (my father-in-law missed the phone call), but were all the more indignant for that.

The trouble with offence is that it is subjective. To give it, someone has to take it. Salman Rushdie has lived for years under a death threat for writing things about Islam that, had he written them about Anglicanism, might have earned him a tedious like Hoddle, he had caused offence. On correspondence with a slightly re- 15 January, Mr Howard, a white man, proving bishop. Likewise, women signally failed to take proper offence when ministers in the previous government - John Gummer and Ann Widdecombe - publicly opposed the ordination of women, on the basis that they were not scripturally equal. No one, I recall, suggested that those min-

isters should be fired for this. And some disabled people seem more inclined to take offence than others. That's hardly surprising, as there are an awful lot of them and - despite the way they are lumped together by journalists and politicians - their situations differ markedly. Nevertheless, the conventional wisdom, as it floated about the air waves this week, was that Hoddle had done 'irreparable damage" to those with disabilities.

But in Wednesday's Times a member of the executive council of Scope one of the organisations most critical of Hoddle - concluded his letter with the sentence, "you can forgive a man for being a fool if England are beating the world at football". In other words, had we won the World Cup last summer the "offence" caused would have been less, and the "damage" done would have been repairable. If that's the case, then the issue of disabilities looks more like a convenient excuse for dismissing Hoddle, rather than the reason.

Let me draw your attention to something interesting that happened in Washington DC last week. The director of the District of Columbia's Office of Public Advocate, David Howard, was forced to resign because, had been discussing a budget with two aides and told them, apparently, that: "I will have to be niggardly with this fund, because it's not going to be a lot of money." One aide then stormed out of Mr Howard's office, and pretty soon rumours of racism in City Hall

were sweeping DC. The complaining phone calls started to flood in. Ten days later Howard resigned. The mayor, Anthony Williams, pronounced Howard's resignation "appropriate" (that word again), adding that officials should "exercise the utmost judgement, discretion, and caution" in their choice of words. He told The Washington Times that everyone must avoid words that could sound offensive to someone else. "Chink in the armour," he mused.

"I wouldn't say that now." I hardly need add that the word "niggardly" has nothing to do with race. It means "miserly" and probably comes from a Norse word, hnoggr, meaning "to scrape". That wasn't the point. The point was that it caused offence whatever it meant. And since it had caused offence to people inclined

to be offended, Howard had to go. The warning is there. You will forgive me, then, for thinking that if the Hoddle case is a watershed, it isn't one for the disabled. I do not believe it will alter their many situations one iota. No. it is, rather, an encouragement of the mediocre, the ever-careful, the anodyne, the mendacious, the riders of bandwagons, the slippery and the cowardly. No wonder Margaret Hodge

was so pleased.

that there is a need to use force ment must make provision for

### OUOTE OF THE DAY

'Some men really like to be married; it's all the same to me. it changes nothing. But it's a good excuse for a party." Juliette Greco, French actor

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"One shouldn't talk of halters in the hauged man's house." Miguel de Cervantes,

Spanish novelist



Ngers suffer horribly at the hands of poachers. The illegal tiger-bone industry for Chinese medicines could push the tiger to extinction. Adopting Sheba, who was orphaned when poachers killed her mother, will help us to help her and fund tiger protection projects worldwide.

For just £14.95 you'll receive a gift pack including: a personalised certificate
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WESTERN NATIONS, to a large e. ent, should take respons-Branker Herrich and Charles 1 MIL 6 ibility for the escalating crisis in the Yugoslav province. In the **14.** current world order, a troubleef . . . . maker cannot be a good police-Same of the same \*\* man too. With the ultimatum 34 - 2 - 5 - 37 MA CH from the West, the Balkans, har jan i

Nato to learn some lessons from the US failure and come to realise the simple truth: military force cannot save Kosovo. China Daily

THE LEADER of the Serbs remains prideful and defiant, but to make the wrong step here could be suicidal. Beyond Nato's air power, which includes US squadrons, Nato action in Iraq solved nothing. troops would probably be

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD International comment on the Kosovan peace talks due to be held this weekend

**MONITOR** 

If Mr Milosevic fails to comprehend what faces his regime, he really has only himself to blame for the damage. Therefore, it is high time for committed to action as needed. Los Angeles Times

The crisis is coming to a head. NATO HAS the ability to force the parties to the table. Sadly, it must be prepared to do just that if necessary. Even Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary General, concedes

when all other means have failed. This power should not be used lightly, but in this case, a failure to act will only prolong the indignities and the suffering. Japan Times

UNLESS A new agreement with teeth in it is reached soon, the killing will intensify in the spring, when conditions become more favorable for troop movements. Such an agree-

troops. Ending the slaughter should be reason enough, but there is a more compelling ar-

global repercussions. Texas Star-Chronicle

ment. The situation in Kosovo must not be allowed to spin out of control, for that could set off a chain reaction of national and ethnic strife in Southern Europe that would have perilous

gument for American involve-

armed peacekeepers in Kos-

ovo, including American

### **PANDORA**

### Which national newspaper...

THE EXPRESS

THE ADVERTISEMENT for The Express on the back cover of the current issue of Private Eye makes a range of proud boasts (see above). While Pandora supports the Plain English Campaign, she was surprised to see the mispunctuation of the word "it's" and the misspelt Geoffrey. "It was a hideous typographical error," says the Express deputy editor. Chris Blackhurst, "but it certainly wasn't at this end." While senior executives rush full speed ahead to find the culprit, Blackhurst admits: "Unfortunately, mistakes do happen.

given permission for a biography of the late Linda McCartney to be published in November in Britain by Little, Brown, Danny Field is the man who will pen the work. He met the then Linda Eastman in 1966 while she was in New York photographing the Rolling Stones. Sir Paul has not yet agreed to be interviewed for the book. "It was never a precondition that I had to show it to him before it's done. And I don't think there will be a need to show it to him," says Field. Besides, after all the fuss the former Beatle made about radio stations banning Linda's last song, "The Light Comes From Within", censorship 🛮 💯 would surely be the last thing on

SIR PAUL McCartney has

THERE WAS a distinct smell of New Labour in the air at the 10th anniversary dinner for the One World Action charity on Tuesday night. The charity. which has influenced Labour's international policy, attracted among others, Richard Attenborough. Cherie Blair (pictured), Ben Elton, Ben Kingsley, Glenys and Neil Kinnock. Kathy Lette and Geoffrey Robertson QC. A speech from the founder member Sir Sigmund Sternberg raised Pandora's cycbrows when he lamented that so many innoortant issues are "miduced to the size of a soundbite", Surely,

Macca's mind.

New Labour were the architects of this method? Never mind. He made it up to the Blairs by wishing them "happily established in Number 10 long after they qualify for their bus passes!" A blushing Cherie told Pandora: "I think that would be very tiring."

URI GELLER is in good spirits this week. The last time he hit the headlines was when the former England coach, Glenn Hoddle, publicly denied that he and the faith healer Eileen Drewery had visited the Israeli spoon-bender's home last summer. "He sat in my living-room, with my wife and children, and then denied it," Uri told Pandora. "It was terrible for my son, who then was teased at school because the other children thought that he had been lying." While Geller would not speculate on who he thought should take over from Hoddle, he was happy to discuss a book, Uri Geller, Magician or Mystic, penned by journalist Jonathan Margolis. The Chinese rights have just been sold. "I have never been to China, but I'm looking forward to going," he said. But what will he bend if be gets interviewed there? A wooden chopstick?

THE CHESTERFIELD hotel in Mayfair has just introduced five themed bedrooms. One is dedicated to the symphony orchestra; another has a jungle theme, presumably for those who enjoy a little rumble in the jungle; but Pandora's favourite is the one dedicated to the theatre, which has a piece of fabric

over the bed which was once part of the curtain of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. Comples will be invited to bring the curtain down on their own performances.

PANDORA HAS heard

of people not being allowed into trendy clubs and bars because they are wearing trainers, or even suits. But on Tuesday night at Marco Pierre White's Titanic restaurant in London, a pretty young thing was refused entry because she was eating some chocolate. "You can't go in there eating that," said the clipboard Nazi. "Marco doesn't like that kind of thing."

Pandora can be contacted by e-mail: pandorau independent. co ak

# Why do we allow this grisly mutilation?

UNTIL FOUR years ago, I worked part time as an adult education tutor in Tower Hamlets. A large number of my students were Somali women refugees who spoke English but needed help to get into professional training. They were strong women who were clearly discovering the benefits of self-determination in their personal lives. They would tell stories about how wonderful their villages were, and the community spirit that sustained them. But at times they would also recount the terrors they had to live through - the wars, the famines and, worst of all, the genital mutilation that they had been forced to suffer when they were eight or nine years old.

They had all been traumatised by this experience, and the few who defended the practice were the women who were afraid that without it they would sever an essential connection between themselves and their cultural roots. The rest were impatient with such excuses. Their men were beginning to resent the practice, too, partly because they were becoming aware, by having seen so many images of couples enjoying sex together, that this was im-



### **YASMIN** ALIBHAI-BROWN

When women and girls are being physically brutalised, then cultural differences be damned

possible with a partner who had been genitally disfigured.

Yet female circumcision goes on here in Britain and in France, and the authorities choose to turn a blind eye because it is easier to do this than to get embroiled in battles over cultural rights and racism. Television investigations have revealed that a couple of Harley Street doctors have been involved in the busiumcision is carried out on girls by taking them home when they are too young to understand or protest.

I will now describe what the worst kind of mutilation entails, and I apologise if it causes distress. I was shown what happens to the genital area by Khatoon, one of my former students, who is now studying at a new university. Where the inner labia and clitoris should be, was flat, scarred, barren, tight, tortured skin. Khatoon sobbed as she told me how her mother and grandmother held her down, singing her favourite songs, while two other women cut off the parts:

"They tied up the hole with sharp sticks and thread. They left a small space for the blood of the woman for later on and I was left on the bed with fever for so many weeks. Going to the toilet was like hell."

Intercourse is impossible, so the vagina has to be cut open on the wedding night. A razor blade is used by the husband. Childbirth causes untold suffering and complications, and some doctors I once talked to at the London Hospital wanted to publicise this grisly

ness, but more frequently the circ- information to try to affect the attitudes of the people concerned. It is all to do with the fear of female

sexuality and pleasure. The novelist Alice Walker and the British film-maker Prathiba Parmar have been campaigning for years to end this cruelty, which has tribal origins and pre-dates Christianity and Islam. These days, though, it is wrongly thought of as an Islamic custom because Islam is the main religion of the countries where female mutilation is commonly found. Islam, as a matter of fact, emphasises the right of sexual satisfaction for women within marriage, and I have yet to find a mutilated woman who says she has a good time in bed.

The good news is that yesterday a major trial began in France, where a woman from Mali. 52-year-old Hawa Greou, stands accused of the genital mutilation of 48 young girls. The parents of the girls have also been charged. Although, technically, genital mutilation has been against the law for 15 years in France, this is the first time that a case has been triggered by a victim's complaint and it is the first time, too that a female judge is presiding.

The young woman who went to the police is now a law student. Women like her have the means to change things. Education, especially Western education, makes you question your own people, for better or worse, and learn about fundamental freedoms and rights. In Kenya recently such women have persuaded some village chiefs to organise circumcision ceremonies. but in purely symbolic ways, and this is beginning the slow road to reform.

Donor countries providing aid could impose tighter conditions on this issue. The problem in Britain is that there is a fear of interfering with "ethnic" cultures, and a reluctance to impose norms.

In general this delicacy is no bad thing, as it shows a greater respect for phiralism than our culturally more arrogant French cousins. But when women and girls are being physically and emotionally brutalised, denied the right of education and treated like objects, then cultural difference be damned, I say to the people in power.

Follow France. Do what is necsary, and what you would if these

# Beware the wild rovers of Limerick and Lewisham

THEY CAME right out of the television at you. The first sighting the nation had of the Norfolk Twelve was on Monday night's News at Ten. Two handsome blonde women headed for the camera in a determined, hysterical totter. They were complaining loudly about their treatment, extending their arms to display the handcuff marks on their wrists, but were laughing as well. They were full of confidence, sass and selfrighteousness. They sported unkempt bouffant hairdos, black roots and hooped earrings. They had the look of girls who could handle a whole night on the grog, before breakfasting on roofing-nails. They bore down on the viewing public like Celtic Valkyries, swooping towards the screen as if to give it a good kicking. You could feel the cameraman quake at their approach. They were

Many viewers must have looked at them and thought: "Let's see. a black passenger. "Shut you women Gatwick to Jamaica. That's seven or eight hours, minimum, in the company of these ladies and their men. as they sang 'The Wild Rover' and 'Kevin Barry', and drank and slumbered, and argued and swore and invited other passengers to 'step outside and say that."

And once the duty-free bottles and packets of courtesy peanuts started flying through the air, where could you go? And if they decided they didn't like the way you were gazing at their urchin beauty, how could you persuade them not to tear you limb from limb?

Gradually the story unfolded. The 12 had paid £660 each for this week-long holiday. As the Boeing 767, containing 325 passengers, hugged the eastern seaboard of the American coast at 37,000 feet, six hours into the flight, half the travellers were asleep, having consumed Homeric quantities of alcohol:



### **JOHN** WALSH

Who are these guys, the streel-haired wild bunch whose womenfolk are tougher than the men?

others were enjoying "an old-fash-ioned Irish sing-song", but softly, just softly. One of the party, Miles Connor, en route to the lavatory, was told by up, shut you lady up." Connor had replied that the girls were only enjoying themselves. The Jamaican threw a glass of beer over Connor and, when another traveller got up to remonstrate, told both men that he'd slaughter them, once they hit Jamaica. The cabin staff tried their "normal calming techniques" and, half-an-hour later, the Irish were told that the aircraft was being diverted to Virginia, where they were left stranded for two days, as their luggage went on to Montego Bay without them.

The more we learnt about them. the more vivid they became. They were mostly members of an extended family called Connor. Many of them lived on a caravan site in a Lewisham car park, at the seriously nasty end of south London, Four of the six women are sisters - Elizabeth, Angela, Katrina and Priscilla O'Driscoll. Their family made its money by paving gardens and driveways, and could afford to run a £30,000 Toyota Landcruiser, as well as a less glamorous pick-up truck.

The men were allergic to having their photographs taken. And some of them seemed dangerous to property, according to the proprietor of the caravan site's local pub, the Royal Oak, from which members of the clan had been banned since June last year for allegedly ripping out the loos, dismembering the telephones and getting into fights.

Who are these guys - this streelhaired wild bunch whose womenfolk are tougher than the men, where drinking, fighting and destroying property count as normal behaviour? Just as Alan Clark looked at the English football hooligans marauding through the streets of Marseilles last year and saw the: British martial spirit asserting itself against the old enemy, so one can look at the Twelve as a newish phenomenon: the combination of the Irish tinker and the south London desperado, forming a mongrel strain that's stronger and

more uncompromising than either. Tinkers are the guilty secret of modern Ireland. Though the press and more enlightened sectors of the community call them "itinerants" or "the travelling community", it's by the name "tinkers" or "knackers" that the Republic's 22,000 wanderers are more usually known to Irish people. Once considered a picturesque addition to the Irish landscape, with their shawls and henna-ed hair, their tin cans and old Gypsy caravans, they became increasingly marginalised figures in

post-war Ireland. On the outskirts of Dublin, Cork. Limerick and Galway, in the Seventies, you could always see a line of rusting mobile bomes on the grass verge, with a couple of horses, some phenomenally dirty children playing



Elizabeth O'Driscoll, furious at being thrown off a plane

hall - and a local housewife scrub- moved on. No wonder they should bing her front path with Jeyes Fluid, wish to head for England, where the for fear the children might cross it.

They were the apotheosis of the wandering Gypsy rover (though they hate being called Gypsies) but they were capable of spectacular violence. It came with the culture. At a tinker funeral in Ballymote, Co Sligo, in March last year, warring traveller families turned up with shotguns, slash-hooks, machetes, bayonets and hurley sticks in the boot of their cars, and police avoided a bloodbath only by confiscating 200 weapons. A Fine Gael county councillor called John Flannery called the travelling community "dogs" and suggested that they should be branded or fitted with tags.

The travellers call in vain for antiracist legislation; they ask to be granted a separate ethnic identity and allowed to live in peace with the settled community in the meantime they're vilified as violent troublemakers and endlessly blanked from the national consciousness, or worst that can happen is that they'l be identified by the American phrase "trailer trash".

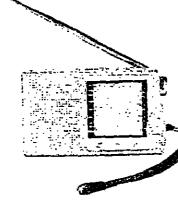
This is the strain from which the Norfolk Twelve appear to have come: a culture of drink, poverty, inbreeding, illiteracy, ill-health and the expectation of violence. In Lewisham and Croydon - the homes of the Connors, O'Driscolls, Coopers, Coyles and the rest of the tribe - they have made a better life for themselves; enough, certainly, to pay for what a tabloid jealously called a "winter sunshine trip".

They may live outside the normal forms of society, outside the community of mortgage-payers and one jump ahead of the Inland Revenue. but their experience of the south London air has evidently made them stronger richer and more vibrant with attitude than the majority of their metropolitan neighbours. Just remember not to stick around when they start singing.

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ically alter the role of Westminster, by introducing the spirit of fed-eralism into its deliberations.

Hitherto, this spirit has been absent from Westminster, with the de minimis exception of Northern Ireland between 1921 and 1972. With this exception, there has been no element of federalism in a House of Commons in which every MP was responsible for scrutinising both the domestic and the nondomestic affairs of every part

After devolution, by contrast. MPs will normally play no role at all at Westminster in legislating for the domestic affairs of Northern Ireland or Scotland, or in scrutinising secondary legislation for Wales. Only with respect to England will MPs continue to enjoy the power which, until now, they have enjoyed for the whole of the United Kingdom. Thus Westminster, from

being a parliament for both the domestic and non-domestic affairs of the whole of the UK, will be transformed into a parliament for England, a primary legislation parliament

DEVOLUTION WILL rad- iament for Northern Ireland

and Scotland. This kind of asymmetrical federalism is sometimes thought of as anomalous. It would be wrong, it is some-times suggested, for Scottish MPs, after devolution, to be able to vote on English domestic affairs, when English MPs will no longer be able to vote on Scottish domestic affairs. This, of course, is the notorious West Lothian question.

I have to confess that I have never been able to appreciate the force of this question. For English MPs have never shown much interest in Scottish domestic affairs. Even under the pre-devolution arrangements. Scottish legislation remained largely the concern of Scottish MPs.

What the West Lothian question does do, however, is to draw attention to the fact that devolution is turning Britain from a unitary state into a quasi-federal state, with Westminster becoming the quasifederal parliament of that quasi-federal state.

The prime reason why the new constitution is asymmetric is that the devolution legislation does not propose any economic management, to-



Speaking up for stubborn England

PODIUM VERNON

BOGDANOR From the David Hume Lecture delivered in Edinburgh by the professor of politics at Oxford University

alteration in the arrangements by which England is governed. There may, at first sight, seem to be no reason why devolution to Scotland and Wales should have any consequences for England at all. Devolution, after all, involves the transfer of power only over Scottish and Welsh domestic matters, and the legislation provides that the central instruments of

main with Westminster. Moreover, the Government will continue to be responsible for the nationwide allocation of resources on the basis of need. Devolution, then, appears restricted to those matters that primarily affect those living in Scotland and Wales and which can be administered separately. Devolution, however, will

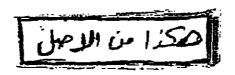
constitutional imbalance in favour of Scotland and Wales. They already have their own secretaries of state; they are over-represented in the House of Commons; and there is a good case for arguing that Scotland, although not Wales, benefits more from public spending than those English regions whose GDP per head is lower. After devolution. Scotland and Wales will have control over local government spending on devolved services and very possibly a greater opportunity of putting their case directly to the European Union.

In his poem "The Secret People" GK Chesterton wrote: Scotland and Wales, "Smile at us, pay us, pass us, could well intensify it."

gether with all major econ- but do not quite forget; for we omic and industrial powers, re- are the people of England that have never spoken yet." England has not yet spoken because, constitutionally, England does not exist. There has been no English Parliament since 1536. There is no English Office comparable to the Scottish. Welsh or Northern Ireland offices, the "English" ministers being so only because their non-English functions have been hived off.

England has long been the accentuate an already existing stumbling-block for supporters of devolution. For England since the time of the Union with Scotland in 1707, has resisted integration, while remaining unsympathetic to federalism. It is the supposedly unified and homogeneous nature of England which has, in large part, been responsible for that preservation of the unitary state.

There can, indeed, be no justification for requiring England to accept devolution against her wishes just because there has been devolution to Scotland and Wales. To force devolution upon England, far from assuaging resentment against



# mutilation

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The Independent 4 February 1999

# One hundred days of farce



**IMRE KARACS** 

Their performance is certainly no way to run a government, but full marks for entertainment

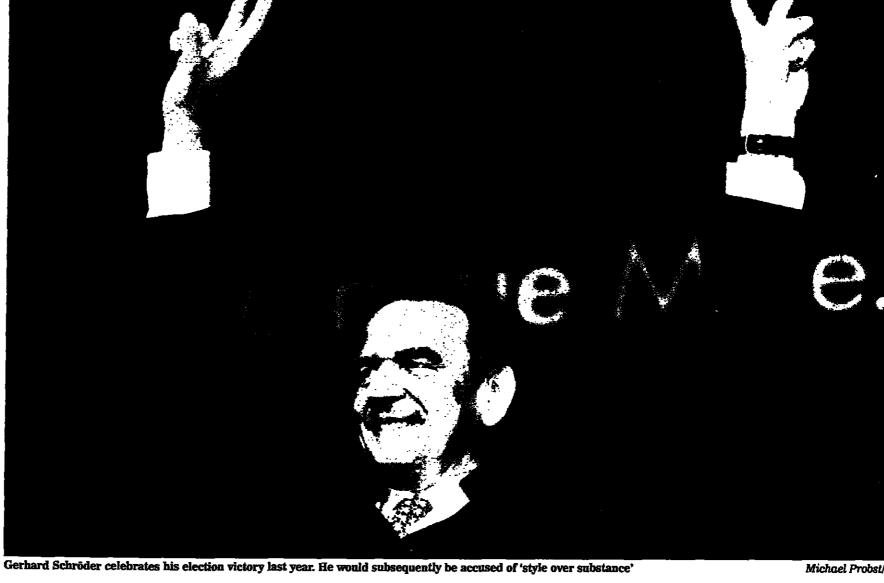
FOR YEARS, Bonn's press corps, bored rigid like the rest of Germany. would muse about the possibilities of life after Helmut Kohl. "Imagine a Red-Green government," some funny man would say, "led by Schröder, and including Lafontaine and Josepha Fischer. Ha-ha."

Well, a hundred days have elapsed since this unlikely troika stepped into the reins, and we are still laughing. It would be unkind to suggest that we were privileged to witness a cock-up on every one of those days. This is, after all, Germany, where not even politicians work at weekends. But those autumn weeks when tax thresholds and ceilings were constantly Yo-Yo-ing up and down are unforgettable. The now-we-shut-them-now-wedon't discussion about the fate of nuclear power plants will remain for ever etched on our memory. And long may Oskar Lafontaine's selfdestructive maraudings through Europe be remembered!

Perhaps it was unfair to expect some basic measure of competence from a party, the Social Democrats, that had been watching Mr Kohl from the sidelines for 16 years. And maybe their partners, the Greens, were entitled to a period of grace in which to lose their innocence. But it had always been said of the German political system that its federalist structure prevented greenhorns from reaching the summit in too indecent a haste.

Gerhard Schröder had two terms as Prime Minister of Lower Saxony - the first in the company of the Greens - "to learn the ropes of government". Mr Lafontaine had been running the, admittedly pipsqueak, region of Saarland longer than anyone can remember. The Greens had also served in Land governments. to the target in this week's remorseless shower of opprobrium was the word "dilettantes".

That is not to say they have achieved nothing. Within days of taking over, the new government reversed the only two reforms that the Kohl administration had managed to push through in its twilight term. Back went sick pay and child benefits to their original level, just as Mr Schröder had promised to the electorate. Social justice was deemed to have been restored.



Michael Probst/PA

The other side of the economic equation - creating conditions in which businesses can prosper - will be taken care of by Mr Lafontaine. Or so we are told. Judging by the diligence with which the Finance Minister is pointing the finger at others - evil banks that set interest rates at a whopping 3 per cent, unfairly low taxes in other European countries - Mr Lafontaine is already convinced that his methods will fail.

But wait, there is the "Jobs Pact". an arrangement involving the unions and employers. The idea is that they all get together around Chancellor Schröder's kitchen table, and thrash out a deal on wage sweetened with a little tax break here and there. Everyone goes home happy, unemployment falls, the government gets re-elected.

It could work. This is the way Germany has been run since the war, and the country has not done all that badly. If anyone can pull it off, it is Chancellor Schröder: friend of big business, superb deal-maker, an expert at smoothing over ruffled feathers, or knocking heads together when that's required. But surely this will not bring unem-

ployment down by 1 million, a target Mr Lafontaine had set his government in an unguarded moment. For that would also need a comprehensive reform of the welfare state, making German labour affordable again. No such plan exists in Mr Lafontaine's drawer.

This could be another example

of "style over substance", a charge

levelled against Mr Schröder with monotonous regularity. It is "stylish", for instance, when the cabinet assembles in Berlin, as it did yesterday. There is no strong reason for it, except that it looks good, marking the Chancellor out as a man who cannot wait for the dawn of the Bonn to Berlin, due to take place after the summer, is Mr Schröder's Millennium Dome: potent symbol of his modernity, an official decree that henceforth all must have fun. "Berlin" in his vocabulary stands for youth, urbanity, raw energy and tolerance. In other words the very antithesis of the old order hallmarked

by the geriatric ward of Bonn. Surprisingly though, behind this stylistic edifice lurks a great deal of substance. Before Bonn empties in the summer, the Bundestag is set to consign to the dustbin of history the 1913 nationality law designed for Aryans. Up to 4 million "foreigners" will get German citizenship and the many rights that come with it. The myth of the homogeneous German nation will be broken; Germans will be confronted with the multiculturalism of their society. If the Schröder government were to do nothing else, this reform alone

would be a huge achievement. But there will be others. Regardless of all the Red-Green dingdongs, the government of Europe's richest country has taken a big stride towards closing its nuclear power plants. The phase-out will will always be a possibility that the next government will reverse everything. But the consensus against nuclear power is hardening, and German governments do not swim against the tide. One distant day, Germany's Greens may be able to point to this period as their finest; the moment when the global nuclear economy began to unravel.

There is also a chance, however remote, of a breakthrough on the foreign front. Mr Schröder cares little about Europe, and spends

few sleepless nights worrying about the pace of EU expansion. He approaches the negotiating table without adopting the humble posture of his predecessors. But his businesslike manner may be exactly what the squabbling band of European leaders needs at this moment. Mr Schröder is demanding a cut in Germany's patently unfair contributions. He will settle for considerably less than what he appears to be holding out for in exchange for the long-awaited reform of the EU budget. And he wants all this completed by March, half-way through the

German presidency of the EU. But striking deals in Europe is task of reaching a decision in the German cabinet. Since day one, the question of who runs Germany has remained pertinent, Mr Lafontaine, Finance Minister and Chairman of the Social Democratic party, thinks he does, Joschka Fischer, leader of the Greens and Foreign Minister believes he is in charge of foreign policy - except the European bits which Mr Lafontaine has stolen. To complicate matters, Jürgen Trittin, the Green Environment Minister.

labours under the illusion that he is

responsible for nuclear power.

The person who really runs Germany is Bodo Hombach, the Chancellor's trusted troubleshooter, 'New Centre" – aka "Third Way" – ideologue, and spin-meister. With Mr Hombach's help, the Chancellor has won every important policy clash so far. These days Mr Lafontaine only whispers about European tax harmonisation into his pillow. Mr Fischer's talk about a "United States of Europe" is scaling new heights of abstraction. And the other day Mr Trittin proudly proclaimed his humiliation over nuclear reprocessing as a triumph.

As long as everyone understands ecizve roie, ti smoothly. Despite all the U-turns. many Germans think the government is doing a good job. In the polls, both the Social Democrats and the Greens have moved slightly above their election result.

The trouble is, each of the big players has an audience of his own to satisfy, and sometimes they overact. Their collective performance is certainly not be the best way to run the government, but full marks for entertainment value. Guaranteed to make you weep.

### RIGHT OF REPLY

JACK ASHLEY



disabled rights campaigner responds to a leading article on Glenn Hoddle

GLENN HODDLE'S admission of serious error of judgement was overdue, but his dismissal had less to do with that than with the aggressive media campaign it provoked. Never was so much righteous indignation expressed on behalf of disabled people.

The end of Hoddle should be the beginning of a reassessment of our tolerance The concerted attack on him was because he was thought to have committed the cardinal sin of offending disabled people. Had this always been the prevailing attitude, the lives of disabled people would have been immeasurably enriched. But offending disabled people has been one of the most persistent and despicable aspects of our history.

Although they are no longer put to death, as in early days, disabled people have not exactly been acclaimed in the last few hundred years. Patronising them, disregarding their problems and generally ignoring them has been the norm. Now, suddenly, because of Hoddle's outburst, they are inviolable and he was forced out - despite the practical help he had given them.

The media campaign against Hoddle, based - apparently - on the sense of outrage on disabled people, was astonishing in its intensity. Many of those who jumped on the bandwagon had never given a thought to disability. but they apparently became distraught at hearing Hoddle dress dis religious views.

But where, in all this, are our values regarding the individual and our tolerance of their behaviour? If, as we claim, we believe in the freedom of speech, that freedom is of little value if it is confined to the expression of popular views. The real test is how we react when people express unpopular opinions - such as those articulated by Glenn

# Topless darts, clueless television

LIVE TV is "available" in more than 2.5 million homes, according to the cable station. But it is available in the same sense that staring at the wheels going around on your electricity meter is available as a leisure pursuit. Chris Horrie's and Adam Nathan's book makes it clear that, for entertainment value, the meter probably wins out over Live With the departure of David Mont-

gomery from Mirror Group, Live TV's backers, the main protagonists in the station's story have gone. Kelvin MacKenzie to Talk Radio and Janet Street-Porter to her own production company, while Montgomery, presumably, is looking for a new company to display his cost-cutting skills. It might, then, be asked: why write

a book about a little-watched cable channel notorious more for its stunts



### THURSDAY BOOK

LEVE TV: TELLYBRATS AND **TOPLESS DARTS** BY CHRIS HORRIE AND ADAM NATHAN, SIMON & SCHUSTER, £18.99

and poorly paid staff than for its impact on British viewers? Yet this is much more than the story of trampolining dwarfs and Norwegian babes presenting the weather. By tracing the careers of the three main players, the authors attempt to tell the tale of British television over the last 20 years - the way Horrie did with tabloid newspapers in Stick it Up Your Punter, his earlier book on The Sun.

Horrie picks up where he left off there, his argument being that many

THURSDAY POEM

THE COMET

(BLASCHETTE, APRIL 6, 1997)

BY DUNCAN BUSH

This week's high pressure brings high April sky

and dawn frosts, with our neighbour's

cherry orchard epithalamial with flower.

At night he lights votive paraffin smudge-pots

while I stand outside to see Hale-Bopp,

its misty tail of ice-particles and gases

like a distant, single, backward-shining foglightbeam.

Is looking at the night sky so long

a form of thanks or prayer? Entering my second

quinquagenary today, I stay out till

the lit room's bleak, the TV dim, to nightvision

after the intensity of starlight stared at years away.

Duncan Bush's new collection, 'Midway', is published at £7.95 by

Seren, 2 Wyndham Street, Bridgend CF31 1EF

of the same characters who ruined British popular newspapers have been allowed to do likewise to British television. The book identifies a point in the early Eighties when many influential television types seemed to grasp the concept of "selling the sizzle, not the sausage" - in other words, style over substance. It identifies Street-Porter as one of many beneficiaries of this move to content-free programming, charting her career back to her much-imitated "yoof" programmes, Network 7 and Def II.

The book wickedly explains what Live TV is for and why it is as bad as it is. Horrie and Nathan make it plain that it was never really about viewers. Created because of the cable industry's need to compete with Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB, the channel was to be funded not primarily by advertising or viewers' subscriptions; instead, Mirror Group was to get 25p for every subscriber who signed up to a cable TV package, as a kind of payment for its newspapers to promote cable in the way The Sun supports Sky.

However, things went wrong when a major cable company, which was supposed to join a consortium to bid against Sky for sports rights, decided instead to sign a deal to work with Sky. Immediately, the likelihood of millions signing up for cable disappeared. And so did the rationale for Live TV. It has

never really had one since. The book rattles along, rendering the complex world of international television deals with a sardonic and humorous eye, but it becomes really



Norwegian weather girls were one of the stunts that typified Live TV

The original Live TV was Britain's first completely vacuous television channel. No one had any idea how to fill the air time, except that it had to be "trendy" and "happening" and appeal to "yoof". But even that rather limited brief could not be fulfilled with the tiny budget.

The channel had few experienced personnel. Instead, young, good-looking wannabe stars - christened "tellybrats" - were signed. The technology meant to give the station 24 hours of live output from parties and clubs never really worked. Endlessly repeated vox pops and micro-celebrities filled the airwaves. Crews of inexperienced youngsters were sent into London's West End to get into parties. They were often turned away but could not have transmitted anyway because the outside-broadcast trucks were the wrong kind.

Presenters were reduced to filming themselves going shopping or doing the washing-up. Bad ad-libbing and strange sex games which either did not work or (when they did) broke television regulations were stretched out funny when the channel gets on air. to fill the hours. The few guests the

channel could attract were selfpublicising weirdos who would have made Jerry Springer wince. It was supposed to be Hello! magazine on acid, but it wasn't even that good.

After five months MacKenzie, originally supposed to oversee Mirror Group's sports TV business, asserted his power and Street-Porter walked out. MacKenzie created the channel that is now famous - famous, but still rubbish. Stunts such as the News Bunny, the Norwegian weather presenters and topless darts gave the channel great name-recognition - but

Horrie's previous book on The Sun was more entertaining, partly because - despite Live's message about the future direction of TV - it is still nothing like as culturally important as MacKenzie's Sun. And not quite as funny. The funniest anecdotes in this book are still those about the glory days of tabloid excess. But L!ve TV comes close - as close, we should hope, as British television will ever come to being truly tabloid.

PAUL MCCANN



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# Robin Nedwell

AS DUNCAN Waring, one of the boozing and womanising medical students in the television situation comedy Doctor in the House. Robin Nedwell was catapulted to fame. He went on to play the doctor at war with the establishment in four sequels, as well as a stage play. For 20 years, he was also seen regularly as the star of other television comedies and he is remembered by his friends for his laugh and a natural talent for comedy.

Born in Birmingham in 1946, Nedwell moved with his family at an early age to Cardiff and, at school, was encouraged to become an actor. He joined the Welsh Theatre Company, before training at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London, and gaining repertory theatre experience in Birmingham, Liverpool, Cheltenham, Bristol, Cardiff and Sheffield.

Nedwell's became a well-known face almost overnight when he was cast in Doctor in the House (1969). alongside other medical students played by Barry Evans, George Layton, Martin Shaw, Simon Cuff and Geoffrey Davies, all trying the patience of Professor Loftus (Ernest Clark). The ITV sitcom was launched after LWT's then head of comedy, Frank Muir. acquired the rights to adapt Richard Gordon's "Doctor" books, which had already been brought to the screen in feature films from the mid-Fifties onwards.

The television series, with new staff and students, set at St Swithin's teaching hospital, featured scripts by writers such as John Cleese, Graham Chapman, Graeme Garden, Bill Oddie and Barry Cryer. Although Nedwell did not appear in the sequel, Doctor at Large. he returned as Waring - now a senior houseman - in 42 episodes of Doctor in Charge (1972), with Sammie Winmill playing his girlfriend, Nurse Sandra Crumpton, and Victor Platt and Mollie Sugden as his parents.

Nedwell and Geoffrey Davies were next seen in Doctor at Sea (1974), aboard a cruise liner, the Beconia. with Ernest Clark now playing Professor Loftus's brother, Captain Lof-

tus. The team of writers for both of these series included Phil Redmond, who was later to create Grange Hill and Brookside. Nedwell and Davies were again the stars when Australian television revived the series as Doctor Down Under in 1980. The BBC sought a further revival with Doctor at the Top (1991), featuring Nedwell as an NHS consultant paediatrician at St Swithin's, now married with five children, as well as George Layton and Geoffrey Davies, but this ran for only seven episodes. Never has one situation comedy

Doctor in the House became Doctor at Large. then Doctor in Charge. Never has one sitcom appeared in so many guises

appeared in so many guises. But starred Nedwell as Fiddler, who typecasting proved not to be a probimmersed himself in Soho life with lem and Nedwell found himself in demand for starring roles in other comedies. After his first appearance his friends the Bishop (Garfield Morgan) and Checkie (Larry Marin Doctor in the House, he acted tyn), gathered at Ma's Cafe, with Toni Palmer playing Ma. Hot on its Roland, best friend of Geoffrey heels, Nedwell played a pop musi-cian, Peter Higgins, giving new life to a village brass band, in Shilling-(Richard Beckinsale), in the writer Jack Rosenthal's warmly remembered series The Lovers (1970-71). bury Tales (1981), a series that He played Mike Upchat in The evolved out of Francis Essex's play Upchat Connection (1978), Keith Waterhouse's sequel to The Upchot The Shillingbury Blowers (1980). Line, which had starred John Alder-When the six-part series began, ton as an author known more for his Peter Higgins was married to Sally chat-up lines than for his literary suc-(Diane Keen), daughter of Major cess. In the new series, Alderton's Langton (Lionel Jeffries). Nedwell's Upchat had raffled the key of his leftnext starring role on television was luggage locker at Marylebone staas Harry Lumsdon, a bakery worktion, London, and bequeathed his er with a newly discovered IQ of 166. in The Climber (1983), a series name and his address book to the

written by Alex Shearer. Although he also played Mercu-Another series written by Water-



erend Green in Cluedo on the small screen, most of Nedwell's subsequent career was spent in the theatre. As well as touring Australia in Doctor in the House (1974) and Doctor in Love (1977), he appeared on stage with the Royal Shakespeare Company in The Devil is an Ass, The Taming of the Shrew and Richard III (all 1995-96), and in the West End in Brigadoon

(Victoria Palace, 1989). He played Max Detweiler in a British tour of The Sound of Music. a production that was also staged at Sadler's Wells (1992). Nedwell proved his versatility on screen by acting in Roman Polanski's film of Macbeth (1971), working mostly on the sword-fight sequences in this particularly violent and bloodthirsty version of the Shakespearean

and he taught it at drama schools. Nedwell was also seen in the film Stand Up Virgin Soldiers (1977), a sequel to the original big-screen version of Leslie Thomas's best-selling novel about British army recruits in Singapore, and the spoof television film The Zany Adventures of Robin Hood (1983), starring George Segal. At the time of his death, Nedwell had been due to appear in a forthcoming BBC children's comedy-drama, as yet untitled. He was a dedicated follower of Llanelli rugby club and collected Japanese swords and prints.

ANTHONY HAYWARD

Robin Nedwell, actor: born Birm ingham 27 September 1946; mar ried 1982 Heather Inglis (one daughter); died Hedge End, Hampshire 1 February 1999.

### **Bob Auger**

who deals with the performance, and the engineer, who deals with the microphone rig, the recording equipment and its operation, and the venue or studio. Bob Auger was one of the leading British recording engineers and a notable pioneer, both as a freelance, and for the practical application of successive technical developments, including stereo and digital recording. He leaves a distinguished portfolio of several thousand recordings, assessed by one colleague as "most of the interest-

ing recordings from that period". Auger's father was a sergeantmajor in the Army, whose successive postings caused constant family upheavals. Auger was born in St John's Wood Barracks, in London, and lived in India as an infant, where he caught malaria, which resulted in his education being repeatedly interrupted. He left school at 14, and to please his father's ambition for him to have a job with a pension became a booking clerk at Stoke-on-Trent railway station, a career ended at Head Office, Euston, when at the age of 28 he left to take an apprentice ship at Bryanston Street Studios. From there he soon moved on to the Pye record company as an engineer.

As a child Auger had started colecting 78s, thus becoming, despite his lack of formal musical training. very knowledgeable of both music and recordings. His growing tech-nical knowledge was reinforced by evening classes. He soon encountered the American record engineer Bob Fine, the architect of Mercury Records. Assisting Fine was an inspiring apprenticeship, and Auger's first recording with him was Barbirolli's recording of Vaughan Williams's Eighth Symphony in 1956. Barbirolli was the first big name Auger worked for and they struck up a warm friendship.

Mercury's reputation was built on their celebrated "single microphone" technique which claimed authentic reproduction of what was actually played, leaving the conductor to decide dynamics and balance. Auger became well known for developing the multi-microphone recording familiar to the modern industry.

Pye was an innovative company in both repertoire and technical developments, particularly of stereo, of which Auger became a notable pioneer. He made his name with a wider audience when working with the the conductor Charles Mackerras. In April 1959 they recorded Handel's Music for the Royal Fireworks using a very large wind ensemble, soon adding the Sinfonietta and opera preludes by Janácek.

From 1960 to 1962 Auger was the Chief Engineer of Granada TV in Manchester subsequently returning to Pye as Technical Manager. He was Granada Recordings, which he ran from 1969 to 1974. During this time he supported the recording requirements of a wide range of leading companies, including RCA, CBS and Vanguard, and in 1974 became fully freelance. The RCA connection had begun prior to Granada, for RCA had contracted Pye to make recordings for them in the UK, and such was Auger's burgeoning reputation, the work followed him.

A pioneering client was John Goldsmith of the newly established Unicorn Records, for whom he made some 130 records. Their first was Nielsen's Fifth Symphony conducted by Jascha Horenstein. Here Auger's legendary inventiveness and unflappability became apparent when, having trouble getting the fade-down of the side-drum solo, they put Alf Dukes, the side-drum player, in the lobby and slowly closed the door on him while recording. On another occasion the gentlemen's toilet was found a perfect acoustic for John the Baptist's cell in Richard Strauss's Salome. One of his best recordings for Unicorn is widely regarded as Horenstein's Mahler

IN THE modern recording industry the team divides into the producer, cial multi-track Dolby A recording on one-inch tape. Later, a pioneer of digital recording. Glière's expansive Third Symphony, was among the first such recordings by an

independent company. Possibly the company with whom Augur made most records was another independent label, CRD, for whom he covered a very wide spectrum of music including the debut recordings of Trevor Pinnock and the Chilingirian String Quartet.

Other artists included Pierre Boulez, the film composer and conductor Bernard Herrmann, Leopold Stokowski, the sopranos Beverly Sills and Cathy Berberian, the composer and pianist John McCabe with whom he made some 16 piano recordings, and Erich Leinsdorf with whom he recorded Salome for RCA. Perhaps above all was Leonard Bernstein, whose 1970 Aibert Hall Verdi Requiem, with Placido Domingo, Auger thought one of his major achievements, though he was very upset at the time that the issued recording was remixed after the tape left him.

Apart from specific recordings. Auger's overriding achievement was in demonstrating that an independent engineer could be viable, indeed could lead the field, so that major companies and the world's leading artists would seek to employ him. He worked, too, as sound engineer on a number of high-profile public occasions both in the pop and classical fields. These included as varied events as the 1969 Isle of Wight Pop Festival, the Rolling Stones in Hyde Park, Frank Sinatra's charity concert at the Festival Hall and Karlheinz Stockhausen's concert in the same hall in the mid-1970s, the latter with



Muiti-microphone recordings

its extensive requirement for electronic sound, when the mixing desk was ostentatiously located in mid-stalls.

While working for Pye Auger was responsible for many pop sessions: artists with whom he had hits included Ray Davies and the Kinks Afternoon", 1966), The Animals ("House of the Rising Sun", 1964) and Steve Winward and the Spencer Davis Group ("Keep on Running", 1966). He also recorded Duke Ellington, Sammy Davis Jnr, Marlene Dietrich at her last appearance in London, Bing Crosby, and Buddy Rich at Ronny Scott's for RCA.

Invariably on location he easily adapted to local, often Spartan, conditions, in halls and churches not designed for recording. On several occasions he worked through the night to avoid daytime distractions.

Remembering his own beginnings, he was always very kind to aspiring engineers and several protégés were helped into the profession by him. Although nominally retired, he was still working for Opera Rara, whose entire catalogue he had recorded, when he died unexpectedly in his sleep.

LEWIS FOREMAN

Robert Walter Ernest Auger, recording engineer: born London 30 April 1928; married 1964 Monika Beilfuss (one son, one daughter); died Swansea 12 December 1998.

### The Right Rev Patrick Casey

Roman Catholic Bishop of Brentwood, could never remember the time when he did not want to be a priest. During his 59 years in ministry he retained the heart of a gentle caring priest: he had a total lack of pomp and a self-deprecating, if mischievous. sense of humour.

Casey became a bishop just after the Second Vatican Council, and he brought to the diocese an approach of unassuming authority, very much in the style of the Council. His appointment as Bishop of Brentwood in November 1969 followed six years as the vicar general in the Archdiocese of Westminster and four years as auxiliary Bishop of Westminster. Canonised saint required He was one of the first Catholic

bishops in England to be selected after consultation within the diocese. After the death of Casey's predecessor, the Brentwood priests conducted a survey in an attempt to formulate the qualities needed in a bishop. The results of the survey were fairly predictable - a pastoral. kindly and caring candidate was sought. There were, of course, many other qualities required - in fact. every virtue had to be included and



winner, Nedwell.

every vice excluded. The only qualifier, as Casey commented when he read it over breakfast, was a canonised saint! A few days later Rome announced his appointment to the vacant see.

Not many Brentwood priests knew much about their new bishop. but subtle - and otherwise - enquiries from the brethren across the diocesan boundaries soon elicited the information that Patrick Casey

preciated man. Indeed of all the qualities for which Casey is remembered in the diocese by both clergy and lay people his kindness will be first. Anyone who had to face any sort of crisis, trouble or difficulty would always have the bishon's compassion and assistance. His kindness was also practical, as many individuals, parishes, societies and organisations could testify.

On the day of his installation Casey announced that he would remain bishop of the diocese for 10 years. He meant what he said. In the autumn of 1979 he submitted his resignation to the Pope. This was recognised as an unprecedented but courageous decision. Casey stated: "I am confident that in the best interests of the diocese, of priests and people alike. I should make way for a younger and more vigorous bishop to lead you forward."

Casey was born in 1913 in Stoke Newington, north London, and educated at St Joseph's Parochial School, Kingsland. He began his studies for the priesthood at the Westminster diocesan seminary at St Edmund's College, Ware, in Hertordained priest by Cardinal Hinsley.

Casey's first appointment was as Assistant Priest at St James's, Spanish Place, near Manchester Square in central London, where he stayed for over 20 years. In 1961 he became parish priest of Hendon. He was only there for two and a half years before being appointed Vicar General of the Westminster Archdiocese in 1963 by the then Archbishop, Cardinal Heenan. The following year he became a Domestic Prelate and a Canon of Westminster Cathedral. Casey had an excellent relationship with the priests of Westminster, among whom he was universally popular. He also had a great friendship with Heenan.

In 1966 Casey was consecrated bishop of the titular sec of Sular by Cardinal Heenan, and became one of the auxiliary Bishops of Westminster. After three years he became Bishop of Brentwood, following the retirement of Bishop Bernard Wall. He maintained his close links with Westminster and it was as Bishop of Brentwood, one of the suffragan dioceses of the Westminster archdiocese, that Casey was the princiCardinal Heenan in 1975.

But it was the pastor in him that dominated. After his resignation as bishop in 1979, Casey again became parish priest, this time at Our Most Holy Redeemer and St Thomas More in Chelsea. He retired 10 years later to Leigh-on-Sea in the diocese of Brentwood. It brought him great joy to live next door to the local church and continue to assist in parish life. BRIAN O'SHEA

Patrick Joseph Casey, priest: born London 20 November 1913; ordained priest 1939; Assistant Priest, St James's, Spanish Place 1939-61: Parish Priest of Hendon 1961-63; Vicar General of Westminster Archdiocese 1963-64; Domestic Prelate and Canon of Westminster Cathedral 1964-67, Provost 1967-79; Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster and Titular Bishop of Sufar 1966-69; Bishop of Brentwood 1969-79; Apostolic Administrator, Brentwood Diocese 1979-80; Parish Priest, Our Most Holy Redeemer and St Thomas More, Chelsea 1980-89; died Leigh-on-Sea, Essex 26 January 1999.

### **Dorothy White**

found the Relatives Association. After she retired from the Civil Service in 1979, she became involved in the support of her mother, who in due course needed a nursing home. This direct experience of longterm care highlighted the stresses placed on relatives; and her subsequent compaigning to improve the provision of care for the elderly and their families led to the establishment of the Relatives Association in 1992, now a national charity. abuse was to link the eyes and ears?

After an initial poor experience. White identified a good home for her mother, but even there recognised the difficulty of remaining closely involved with her mother's life. Many relatives and friends in this situation blame themselves for failing. White in contrast realised that, if she experienced problems, others must too; indeed for many the challenges would be much greater. Information and support were needed.

Furthermore, she recognised that the 500,000 residents of homes and anxious relatives, developing the or-

DOROTHY WILITE never set out to voice which should be mobilised to help plan long-term care. It was this group of people who really knew what was needed - many policymakers and administrators were 40 vears younger than care-home residents and did not see the world from the same perspective. Although White was keen to build partnership between family; friends and the care staff, she recognised that this was insufficient for some very poor homes. The only sure way to root out of the visitors in every home with a strong inspectorate.

White had first hoped to persuade a number of existing voluntary. organisations connected with the elderly to broaden their remit to address the needs of relatives too. None offered to do so but one, Counsel and Care, provided her with a base from which to launch a new mutual aid organisation

White then worked six long days a week, answering the telephone to their visitors were an important ganisation fund-raising. In 1992 the

Relatives Association was formally launched at the House of Commons.

By 1993 the association was independent, with its own charitable status. By 1994 White had raised enough money to employ a director. Later, this post was supplemented by an advice worker and local development staff, and an African Caribbean project followed. Recentiv Relatives Associations have been established for Scotland and Northern Ireland as well as 28 local groups in England.

The association continues to function largely on voluntary effort. and White herself remained activeinvolved in the day-to-day work, in the chair until 1996 and then as Founder President. She also continued to assist on the Helpline; her empathy, knowledge and determination was of enormous value to callers. This involvement was fundamental to White's approach. She did not feel happy on the creative policy side without grounding decisions in real life.

Born Dorothy Gerrish in Esher.



Relatives Associations

Surrey, in 1924, she attended St Swithun's School in Winchester before reading Economics at the untary sector expanded. She was London School of Economics, at that time evacuated to Cambridge. Her untary Service Council and in 1992 prime sphere of interest throughout her life was social policy and administration, a world into which volvement with Network Housing she was swept in 1945, the year she Association, one of the biggest hous-

married John White, when 'called up" from LSE to the Ministry of Health. She worked first in the team that brought in the National Health Service under Aneurin Bevan, the Health Minister, and then on the National Assistance Act, and from 1951 on maternity and child welfare.

After the birth of her third son in 1958 Dorothy White temporarily left the Civil Service and gained experience in youth work, teaching and lecturing on management. In 1966 she was asked to return and joined the Department of Education and Science, where she worked on health reorganisation and special education. She took early retirement in 1979, and became a management consultant.

Meanwhile, in addition to her having a growing family and a fulltime job. White's activities in the volextensively involved in Barnet Volwas appointed OBE for her work there. She had also begun active ining associations in the country - a and a passionate sense of justice for commitment she always retained.

White remained determined to help improve the world even as her health failed. In her last month she was still speaking at meetings and gave evidence to the staff of the Royal Commission on Long Term Care. She had hoped to chair the Relatives Association Annual Conference on 9 November: unable to do so due to chemotherapy treatment, she taped a message saying she hoped to be there in years to come.

safeguarding the NHS was the responsibility of everyone and argued that it needed to adapt to the growing numbers of older people who so desperately require its services. She felt that the present time offered a "window of opportunity" which must be seized to "review the ethics and structure of the health services for older people".

She also reminded people that

JENNY STILES

Dorothy White had an indomitable spirit, writes Baroness Nicholson,

lonely, elderly people. She mobilised her extensive network of friends and neighbours to fight the dismal impact on family links of prolonged stays by elderly frail men and women in Britain's retirement and nursing homes.

I was proud to be a member of her clan. Small at first but now widespread, the Relatives Association now puts policy proposals and implements in practical ways Dorothy's own vision for Britain's elderly, secure and comfortable in their declining years with family ties enhances and not dislocated.

Her enchanting personality was matched by a lifetime of hard work. Many thousands of elderly people have already benefited from her energy and wisdom and thousands will in the future.

Dorothy Marian Gerrish, public servant; born Esher. Surrey 13 October 1921; OBE 1992; married 1945 John White (three sons); died London 26 November 1998.

in the Queen's Hall Orchestra and as

professor at the Royal College of

Music. Both were Musicians in Ordi-

nary to the Royal Family, as was also

their brother Frank, a trumpeter who

gave cornet lessons to the Prince of

Both Cecil and an older brother,

Leslie, were taught bassoon by their fa-

ther, Cecil being started at 15 on an

instrument by Hawkes. Both won schol-

arships. Leslie went to the Royal Acad-

emy, but his career was cut short in 1930

by suicide, occasioned by an unhappy

love affair. Cecil won a scholarship to Trin-

ity, and a year later to the Royal College.

studying with his father, who taught at

all three of the Royal music schools.

There he performed the Mozart Concerto

with Orchestra, a rare exploit in 1933.

London Symphony Orchestra as second

bassoon to Paul Draper. With them he

participated in the pioneering opera sea-

sons at Glyndebourne under Fritz

Busch. Here he also encountered a for-

mer fellow student, the oboist Natalie

served with the Royal Air Force Central

Band. Its conductor Wing Commander

R.P.O Donnell managed to recruit much

of the cream of London's orchestras for

this legendary ensemble: it contained

such well-known players as Gareth

Morris, Leonard Brain and Eddie Walk-

er among the woodwind, Dennis Brain,

Harold Jackson and Norman del Mar

During the Second World War he

Caine, whom he married in 1938.

In the same year he started with the

Wales at Balmoral.

# ob Auger

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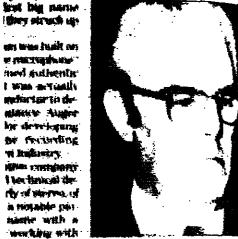
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among the brass, and Harry Blech, Fred Grinke, Leonard Hirsch, David Martin, Jim Merrett and James Whitehead plus the Griller quartet among the strings. Notable engagements undertaken by the RAF Symphony Orchestra included a coast to coast tour of the United States in 1944, and an appearance at the Potsdam Conference the following year After demobilisation Cecil played for while with the New Symphony before being appointed by Walter Legge in 1951 to become principal bassoon of his Philharmonia orchestra. Here he was joined by Peter Parry, a fellow play-

sequently served as first chairman of

er of the French instrument, and by his

former principal Paul Draper. He sub-

THE BASSOONIST Cecil James was Britain has ever produced. Its recordone of the most respected orchestral ings set new standards, while its foreign musicians of his time. His was a musitours established the international repcal family, his father and uncle having utation of British orchestral playing. In been the leading bassoon players of London. His uncle Edwin was a the 1950s it worked with such legendfounder-member of the London Symary conductors as Guido Cantelli, Wilphony in 1904, while his father Wilfred helm Furtwängler, Herbert von Karajan succeeded to his elder brother's posts

Cecil James

Otto Klemperer and Arturo Toscanini. The playing of Cecil James was heard in such classic recordings as Stravinsky's Sacré de printemps under Igor Markevitch, Tchaikovsky's Pathétique symphony with Cantelli, and the Mozart Symphonie Concertonie K297b with von Karajan. He also recorded the Mozart and Beethoven quintets with the pianist Walter Gieseking.

Most of his chamber-music recordings were made with Dennis Brain, an artist with whom he was especially associated. In 1961 he left the orchestra.

> He made an irascible teacher. What really is the secret of a big sound?' he was asked. Well. you just blow the bloody thing. That will be £5'

playing for a time with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra next to Eddie Wilson. He continued to freelance, finally retiring from professional playing

From a bassoon-playing point of view, Cecil James's signal achievement was to have remained faithful to the French ("Buffet"), as opposed to the German ("Heckel") system of instrument. This was the model almost universally in use pre-war outside German-speaking lands. However in London during the 1930s, in the wake of highly acclaimed concerts by the Berlin Philharmonic and Philadelphia orchestras, many professionals switched over to the "safer" German system, with its reformed bore and tone-hole placemen. A similar scenario took place simultaneously with the French horn, both changes provoking considerable controversy at the time.

James never foresook the Buffet for These were vintage years when the what he termed the "mumblephone". He orchestra was arguably the finest that compared playing the French bassoon



to "riding a high-bred horse - when all goes well, one enjoys a thrilling ride but one can have an occasional fall!" He was an artist with the ability to play his instrument with a polished contabile tone and style whose compatibility was never called into question - neither by an exacting connoisseur like Walter Legge nor by a conductor like von Karajan, who in 1969 felt constrained to replace both bassoon and horn in the Orchestre de Paris with German models.

Part of James's secret lay in his reeds, which he designed and made himself, and in his instrument, an exceptional example made before 1914 by Buffet-Crampon, Paris, and inherited in 1930 from his father. As his contemporaries retired, he saw them replaced exclusively by Heckelfagott players. At the time of his retirement, he was virtually the sole surviving professional player of the French instrument left in this country, and he felt this isolation keenly.

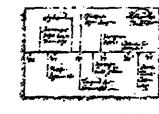
He never held a teaching appoint-

ment - perhaps not surprising in the circumstances. His occasional moodiness - irascibility might often alternate with charm - hardly fitted him for the role of teacher. He himself quoted the following exchange: "What really is the secret of a big sound?" "Well, you just blow the bloody thing. That will be £5."

However in recent years he was happy to help an increasing number of players who came to seek help, not only on how to make reeds for "period" models of bassoon (to which the French instrument is closely related), but on how to play the basson itself. This noble tradition, once in danger of becoming lost, is currently being revived in many quarters - in Britain notably in the New ueen's Hall Orchestra.

WILLIAM WATERHOUSE

Cecil Edwin James, bassoonist: born London 10 April 1913; married 1938 Natalie Caine (three daughters); died London 13 January 1999.



### HISTORICAL NOTES

### Ivan the Terrible and other ghastlies

ON SATURDAY 30 January three of Britain's most eccentric societies united in mourning a king "murdered" 350 years ago that day. Members of the Royal Stuart Society, the Society of King Charles the Martyr and the Royal Martyr Church Union moved from Charles I's statue in Trafalgar Square to the Banqueting House in Whitehall, from which the King had stepped on to the scaffold. There they heard Mass, in the High Anglican tradition, and a sermon by the Bishop of London. His predecessor Bishop Juxon had attended Charles I on the scaffold.

According to Charles's devotees, his execution was "iudicial murder", as no king could be tried for treason treason had always been defined as a crime against the king himself.

The Richard III Society rivals the Royal Martyr's following in fervour. Did Richard combine the crimes of regicide and infanticide, ordering the murder of his nephews Edward V and Richard of York, "the Princes in the Tower"? Even the ingenious defence by the Richard III Society struggles to outweigh centuries of condemnation. Mud sticks.

Britain may be the only country in which a long-ago royal murder - of or by a monarch – can still raise blood pressure, but other European countries have some

der of Ines de Castro, wife of in 1903, but it was the anarthe heir to the Portuguese throne, by order of her fatherin-law the King (she was subversively Spanish). When her widower came to the throne, he had her skeleton exhumed, crowned and enthroned, and made his courtiers file past. kissing the bony hand.

However, for sheer horror. the career of Ivan "the Terrible" (more aptly "the Terrifying"), the 16th-century tsar of Russia, cannot be rivalled. In war, be took thousands of prisoners and himself supervised their killing: they were flayed, impaled, disembowelled, mauled by wild bears, buried alive, roasted over fires and frozen in icy rivers. But what Ivan liked

best was killing with his own

hands. A homicidal maniac A thousand years ago, royal murders were generally a family matter: between 993 and 1058, five Scottish kings were murdered by the cousins who succeeded them on the throne. Even in the 18th century, in Russia. Peter I had his son killed, Catherine II her husband.

Between 1898 and 1913 five of Europe's kings and a consort queen and empress were assassinated. This was the assassin's heyday, the culmination of a half-century of "propaganda by deed" by "revolutionists" in which the major success had been the assassination of the Russian Tsar Alexander II in 1881. admirable gruesomes and serbia's king and queen were ghastlies. Take the 1355 murthe victims of a military coup

chist who was "the terror of kings". "Anarchist" was a catch-all term for every shade of extremism - nationalist, separatist, socialist, nihilist. It was taken up by the purple press, and the anarchist became the favourite villain of the tuppenny shockers

on every bookstall Some monarchs became or pretended to be - blase. "It's one of the risks of our profession." said King Umberto of Italy, survivor of several attacks; he was shot and killed in 1900. But no royal murder was as momentous as the assassination, in 1914 at Saraievo, of the heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire: it triggered - though it did not cause - the First World War. Only last year, in May, a

Basque terrorist plot against the life of Spain's King Juan Carlos was foiled: he was to have been killed at San Sebastian, while opening a new aquarium. As recently as 1996, a ground plan of Buckingham Palace was found in the effects of a dead IRA man. In fact, the IRA were not the instigators of the worst alarm, when six shots were fired at the Queen as she rode down the Mall in 1981. She could not know that they were blanks - but she had long since accepted "the risks of our profession".

Dulcie M. Ashdown is the author of Royal Murders: hatred, revenue and the seizing of power' (Sutton, £18.99)

### John Oakley

THE WIMBLEDON Championships will not be quite the same this summer without John Oakley scurrying about the place chattering to everybody, reporter's notebook and pen at the ready, as they have been for the past

A loquacious character who brought great enthusiam and knowledge and prodigious mental and physical energy to the myriad sports events he covered, Oakley loved Wimbledon in particular

His first assignment at the All England Club was as the 18-year-old sports editor of the Dagenham Post in 1946, after which he became an ever-present in the press box, writing in turn for the Nottingham Evening Post, the Yorkshire Evening News, the London Evening News and the Press Association, Oakley's chattering once promoted Rex Bellamy, the former tennis correspondent of The Times, to enquire if he was the editor of The Listener, a joke Oakley enjoyed telling against himself.

The Frenchman Yvon Petra won the Wimbledon men's singles championship in 1946. Petra, the last man to win the title wearing long white flannels, proudly told young Oakley, "For six matches l played in shorts because I was playing for Yvon Petra. But in the final I wore long trousers because I was playing for La Belle France."

Of all the champions he saw, Oakley rated Rod Laver, Björn Borg, Lew closing weeks of the tennis season last January 1999.

Hoad, Jack Kramer and John McEnroe, in that order, as the best of the men, and Maureen Connolly, Martina Navratilova. Steffi Graf, Margaret Court and Billie Jean King were his choice as the top five among the women.

A keen golfer, Oakley would not let the completion of a round stop him from arguing a point. A lengthy dispute over a rule after playing with a colleague, the late Brian Cutress, of Exchange Telegraph, led to his friend Cutress's obtaining a letter from the Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St Andrews supporting his case. "I still think I'm right," Oakley said.

He was in his element during the

autumn, vociferously calculating the mathematical possibilites as Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski battled for world ranking points in the race to qualify for the ATP Tour Championship in Hanover

Oakley's last event was an evening of table tennis in the Surrey Veterans League on 25 January. He played in two matches and was umpiring another when taken ill.

JOHN ROBERTS

John Oakley, sports journalist: born Abingdon, Berkshire 1 February 1928; married 1955 Patricia Coleman (two sons); died Guildford, Surrey 30

Tate Gallery: Miquette

conscience", 1pm.

11.30am.

Roberts, "The Interior Life

of a Woman: the awakening

British Museum: Carolyn

National Portrait Gallery:

Tim Heath as Lytton Stra-

chey in Ermyntrude and

London W1: Peter Hughes,

Esmeralda, 1.10pm.

Wallace Collection,

French 18th-century

Perry, "Fish, Beans and

Rice: Tunisian textiles".

### Judicial review was rarely appropriate

IT WOULD rarely be appro-priate to apply for judicial review of the exercise of a local housing authority's discretion under section 204(4) of the Housing Act 1996 not to offer temporary accommodation to a homeless person pending an appeal to the county court against its refusal to accommodate him.

The Court of Appeal refused the applicant's renewed application for leave to move for judicial review of a decision of Brighton and Hove Council not to offer him temporary accommodation whilst waiting for the outcome of his appeal to the county court under section 204 of the Housing Act 1996.

The applicant had applied to the local authority for accommodation under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 in October 1998, and the local authority had provided him with accommodation whilst it considered the application. On 17 November 1999 the local authority determined that although the applicant was in priority need and homeless he was intentionally homeless. The applicant re-

quested a review of that decision. The local authority affirmed its original decision, and indicated to the applicant that it would cease to provide him with accommodation on 15 December. The applicant appealed to the county court. On 15 December he indicated to the local authority that he was appealing and asked the local authority to continue to accommodate him temporarily pending the outcome of the appeal. The local authority considered the request, but refused it on 17 December.

The applicant applied for

### **THURSDAY** LAW REPORT

4 FEBRUARY 1999

R v Brighton and Hove Council, ex parte Nacion Court of Appeal (Lord

Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Tuckey) 1 February 1999

leave to move for judicial review by way of certiorori to quash the decision of 17 December 1999, mandamus requiring the local authority to accommodate him pending the determination of his appeal by the county court, and an interlocutory injunction requiring the local authority to accommodate him pending the determination of the judicial review proceedings.

That application was refused by Collins J. The applicant renewed his application for leave to move for judicial review. Sylvester Carrott (the Brighton Housing Trust, Brighton) for the applicant; James Findlay (Legal Services, Brighton & Hove Council. Hove) for the local authority.

Lord Justice Tuckey said

that it was clear from the decision of the Court of Appeal in Ali v Westminster City Council (Law Report, 30 July 1998) that, where a homeless person appealed to the county court against the determination of a local housing authority to refuse to accommodate him,

the local authority had a discretion and not a duty under section 204(4) of the Housing Act 1996 to offer him temporary accommodation pending the outcome of the appeal.

Helpful guidance as to the matters which a local authority should consider when exercising that discretion had been given by Latham J in R v Camden London Borough Council, exp Mohammed (1998) 30 HLR 315. Where, as in the present

case, the local authority had obviously considered all the relevant factors in making its decision under section 204(4), it was an entirely futile exercise for the applicant to seek to say that the local authority had in some way exercised its discretion wrongly. Such applications for judicial

review should be strongly discouraged. It was only in an exceptional case that there would be a reasonable prospect of interesting the court in an application for judicial review of what was a very broad discretion given to the local authority. Lord Woolf MR said that, if

the local authority had refused even to consider the exercise of that discretion, judicial review might well be the appropriate remedy, but apart from that it was difficult to envisage a case when a judicial review application would be appropriate. In a case where a local authority had not exercised its discretion in an applicant's favour, the only course which would normally be appropriate would be to make an application for the appeal under section 204 to be heard as soon as practicable by KATE O'HANLON,

Barrister

### A DISPUTE has broken out among mature students at Columbia. Some regard kaffeeklatsch with a teacher as favouritism; and they could be right, for knowledge is better imparted and absorbed at a table than in a lecture-hall. An unusually inspired amalgamation of German words coffee and gossip - it

### Words CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

kaffeeklatsch, n. appears to have reached

English, in particular American, late last century and, variously spelled, been in consistent use since, as in

the late William Whyte's The Organization Man. whose woman, by contrast, "will be kaffee-klatching and sunbathing". Abbreviated to klatsch, it

still suggests that coffee fuels the proceedings. Now that coffee shops are as booming as dot.coms, perbaps it is time for another new chain: Kaffeeklatsche.

### **GAZETTE**

### ROYAL **ENGAGEMENTS**

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, attends a reception for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Charitable Trust in West Norfolk, at the Town Hall, King's Lynn, Norfolk, The Duke of York, Patron, the London Contemporary Dance Trust, visits The Place, London WC1, to meet the new Chairman and view rehearsals. The Princess Royal visits the Soho Centre for Health and Care, Soho Square, London W1; and, as Patron, the 1999 World Schools Debating Championships, attends a Reception at the Locarno Suite, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London SW1. The Duke of Kent, President, National Electronics Council attends a dinner for the council at Savoy Place, London WC2.

### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Gnards, Ham; Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Welsh Guards.

### BIRTHDAYS

Mr Peter Allen, broadcaster, 53; Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Ashmore, 78; The Hon Sir Clive Bossom Bt, former MP, 81; Professor John Brown, Astronomer Royal for Scotland, 52; Mr Jim Cunningham MP, 58; Dr P.E. Thompson Hancock, specialist in cancer treatment, 95; Lord Haslam, former chairman, British Coal. 76; Mr Russell Hoban, writer, 74; Mr David Malouf. novelist, 65; The Hon Mrs Ray Michie MP, 65; Mr Stanley Newens, MEP, 69; Sir Michael Nicholson, a Lord Justice of Appeal, Northern Ireland, 66; Mr Charles Pollard, Chief Constable, Thames Valley Police, 54: Mr William Ross MP, 63; Lord Ryder of Wensum. former MP, 50; Lord Shawcross QC, former Attorney-General and former Chancellor, Sussex University, 97; Mrs Jenny Shipley, prime minister of New Zealand, 47; Mr John Willan, former managing director, London Philhar monic, 56; Mr Norman Wis-

dom, actor and comedian, 84;

Sir Christopher Zeeman, former Principal, Hertford College, Oxford, 74.

### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Pierre Carlet de Chamblain de Marivaux, playwright and novelist, 1688; George Lillo, playwright, 1693; William Harrison Ainsworth, novelist, 1805: Myles Birket Foster, painter, 1825; Richard d'Ivry (Richard Yrvid), composer, 1829; Valentine Cameron Prinsep. artist, 1838; Fernand Léger. cubist painter, 1881; Jacques Prévert, poet and novelist. 1900; Charles Augustus Lindbergh, aviator, 1902; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, 1906. Deaths: Lucius Septimius

Severus, Roman emperor, 211; John Rogers, Protestant martyr, burned at the stake 1555; Robert Blair, poet, 1746; Pompeo Girolamo Batoni, painter, 1787; Edward George Villiers Stanley, 17th Earl of Derby, politician and ambassador, 1948; Sir William Darling, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, 1962; Karen Carpenter, singer,

1983; Liberace (Wladiziu Valentino), pianist, 1987.

On this day: Adolf Hitler assumed command of the German army, 1938; the Yalta Conference opened, 1945; Ceylon (later known as Sri Lanka) became an independent state, 1948; sweet rationing ended in Britain, 1953; The Sunday Times issued the first colour supplement in Britain, 1962; the world's largest hovercraft (165 tonnes) was launched at Cowes, 1968.

Today is the Feast Day of St Andrew Corsini, bishop, St Isidore of Pelusium, St Joan of Valois, St John de Britto, St Joseph of Leonessa, St Modan, St Nicholas Studites, St Phileas, St Rembert and St Theophilus the Penitent.

### LECTURES

National Gallery: Paul Hills, "Fra Angelico (i): Fra Angelico's light", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Wendy Fisher, "European Commemorative Medals", 2pm.

Inkstands", 1pm. Gresbam College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Tom Cannon, "New Learning for a New City: when worlds collide", Ipm.

LUNCHEONS

**English-Speaking Union** Baroness James of Holland Park (P. D. James) spoke on her novel A Certain Justice at an English-Speaking Union luncheon held yester-

day at Dartmouth House. London W1. Baroness Brigstocke, Chairman, presided. Mrs Valerie Mitchell, Director-General, received

the guests.

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

# Can I help my depressed friend?

Peter's friend Philip, a highly intelligent man, suffers bad bouts of depression. He's often been hospitalised, but has refused ECT. He's coped well for six years with help and now he's applying for jobs. Although he often gets short-listed, he is invariably turned down when potential employers hear about his illness. Peter feels that this smacks of prejudice. Can he help?

VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

t's ghastly being dessed. It's ghastly being around someone who's depressed. Because what we all want, when a friend or relation of ours is ill, is to do something. Now, if they have cancer or a broken leg, it's relatively simple. We know that in the "doing" stakes, we're impotent. There's no way we can pop round with a chemotherapy casserole or a bag of plaster. "Would you like a splint?" isn't part of the patient's friend's vocabulary. Nor is: "Do let me nip round with some

radiotherapy."
No, we should, we feel wrongly, be able to cure our depressed friends ourselves, simply by offering hope or love, neither of which is on prescription. We should be able to make life worth about depression is that it puts up living for them, by telling them a barrier to accepting anything for walks and get some fresh air. or simply by being there. When from the inside. someone close to us is very, very depressed (and I'm talking here of he's doing. Perhaps he could sugtrue depression, not everyday gloom) the fact that they can't be mind against ECT, which can theered up by us often seems like have an absolutely magical effect

a criticism of our own powers. So when you say to someone who's depressed: "Hey it's a lovely sympathise with him about his job day, the sun's shining, so why problems, while at the same time don't we go for a walk and then go to the movies and then go out for a scrumptious supper?" and they say they really don't want to, we feel terribly rejected. To make them feel better is almost a selfish act. If we don't succeed, we feel

making us feel bad about ourselves, and then getting angry with them. That's when the awful phrase "Pull yourself together!"

comes into play.

Now, if Philip is depressed,
Peter shouldn't feel guilty. When you're depressed, you could win the pools and have Gwyneth Pal- down again. trow stalking you, and all you'd say would be: "So what?"

What is so terrible about suffering from depression is the very If depression could be alleviated by declarations of love, or offers of his friend and to feel safe sunlit walks or holidays or dinners, then no one would ever suffer from the condition. The dreadful thing jokes, by encouraging them to go from outside. For the depressed person, everything is coloured

> Peter can do no more than gest that Philip shouldn't set his on some people who are recommended it. And perhaps he could pointing out that no employer wants to take on anyone who's going to be off work for long periods, whether they suffer from depression, migraines, broken limbs or whatever

I suffer from bouts of severe

**DILEMMAS** WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

worse about ourselves, and before depression. And yet I would never we know where we are, we're employ anyone who had a history blaming them at some level about of taking time off to be in hospital. I would also not want to employ a depressive, simply because on the whole I find depressives incredibly gloomy people to be around. It would be rather like employing someone with a permanent cold. I'd always worry that I was going to catch it and spiral

crippling and disabling illness. Funnily enough, the less Peter tries to "do" something about it, inability to accept any kind of and the more accepting he can be help. This is one of the symptoms. and the more accepting he can be of Philip's condition, the freer of Philip's condition, the freer Philip will feel to confide in And the safer he

can feel, with no pressure to feel "better", paradoxically, the better he may

Peter's friend suffers from a

READERS' SUGGESTIONS

Turn the illness into a plus In our bigoted society, Philip on the face of it would have little chance in gaining suitable employment employers are not under any oblig-ations to employ candidates with a history of mental health prob-

My advice (as a mental nurse) would be for him to target jobs where his mental health history would be an advantage, eg mental health charities or mental health trusts looking for advocacy workers, and progress from there. MARK A TULL RMN BSc Hons Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Why not try voluntary work? I feel so sorry for Philip, but why does everyone want to work for a salary? I take it he's been able to cope without money so iar?

For instance, if he went to Social Services he'd be asked to do Meals on Wheels or something similar and see sights that would pull him up to take a second look at his life.

I'm afraid Philip is not looking at himself from an employer's point of view. I've been on boards where a member of staff has come up with a psychological filness and, quite rightly, backed by their union has got a small fortune out of their employer. Employers these days cannot afford to take such a risk. DAWN MUIREEAD London SW19 🕟

Philip needs your support Depression is surprisingly com-

good, can never be seen as a cure, and unfortunately it is this fact that LAURA, Oxford

many employees will dwell on. When you are close to a sufferer, it can be infuriating to watch their Philip should take up a venture of self-esteem be destroyed as once again their vicious circle of self-

hatred begins. Regardless of his employment status, a sufferer from depression plenty of room for somebody who needs your support and absolute can give intelligent help for a fee. needs your support and absolute faith in him. It may sometimes BEA NEWBERY, London SW18

mon, affecting 12 per cent of the seem as if your words are falling adult population Therapy though on deaf ears, but they will be appreciated and help enormously.

> Start your own busines: his own. You could perhaps help him to establish it. He could help people with tax, entrance and final exams, CVs etc. There is

### **NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA**

Dear Virginia, I am an extremelu experienced woman, working for a new firm on a contractual basis in a senior position, but I work at home as well as on site. The company have told me that they'll provide me with a bleeper so they can contact me whenever they like I was expected to be delighted about this "perk". But in fact I value my privacy, and feel phobic about being able to be reached at all times, when I'm walking in the hills or when I'm in my bath. I'm frightened of it ringing when I'm driving, I find it badmannered to have phones going off when I'm talking to someone, and if I put it on "vibrate". I'd have to wear it Sellotaped to my skin as,

unlike men who have the waistbands of trousers, or pockets, I often have nowhere it could be attached to my clothes. The same argument would apply to a mobile phone. I know lots of people hate mobiles going off all the time, but does anyone share my phobia about actually owing a bleeper or mobile? How do they cope? Yours sincerely, Volerie

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Send letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, "The Independent", I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-**293** 218**2**, or e-mail dilemmas@independent.co.uk - giving a postal address for

# It's OK mum, I'm not pregnant

Why does contraception for teenagers cause such widespread alarm? By Jeremy Laurance

PATEENAGE SEX is a dangerous promiscuous as they chose tinguished record of lecturing

the to have suggested that 10-year-

issue and no one knows that better than Professor John tin Guillebaud. Even he, however, priwas taken aback by the ist ferocious row he triggered on Tuesday when, as professor of of family planning and reproducmistive health at University Col-(lege, London, he was reported young girls be spayed.

brould schoolgirls could be fitted of with a contraceptive device in tithat would allow them to be as

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without any fear of pregnancy. The moral right reacted with predictable outrage. Life - the

anti-abortion organisation - demanded his arrest, while the campaigner Victoria Gillick said that his proposal was tantamount to recommending that

Possibly more hurtful for the professor, who is also director of the Margaret Pyke clinic, and has a long and dis-

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THE MILL

essary to go back to the origins of the story and trace its emergence on to the national scene. Professor Guillebaud made his remarks at a conference held at the Royal Society of Medicine on Friday 22 January. The conference was entitled "Key Advances in the the Clinical Management of Contraception" and, as an expert, he had been invited to set out his Julien Temple

vision of the future In his speech, he expressed enthusiasm for a new. Dutchmade device called Implanon, a tiny, 50mm rod of hormones that is inserted under the skin of the arm and lasts for three years. It is a refined, smaller version of an earlier device called Norplant and was granted a European licence last December:

and writing on matters of se

ual health, was the way his

friends in the family planning

movement also turned on him.

for young people accused him

of advocating eugenics, and

the British Pregnancy Advisory

Centre said it was "a dangerous

and thoughtful man find himself

embroiled in such an unpleas-

ant row? To understand this. and to draw out the true implications of what he said, it is nec-

road to go down".

How did this compa

The Brook Advisory Centres

Professor Guillebaud sugsested that this could be the forerunner of an ideal, forgettable contraceptive that was reversible, had no side-effects and would finally deliver women from the tyranny of having to control their fertility with tricky, ineffective or risky methods such as the pill and the

"What we are striving for is a form of contraception that you can turn on or off as you wish,"

Then he added: "In the futere, and as a social policy, when you have an area with a huge rate of teenage pregnancies you could go into a school obviously with the consent of the parents, and fit this device so that everybody would start out not being able to have a baby. It could be fitted into girls once they had had their periods but before they had had sex - for instance, at the time when they were having their rubella jabs."

His remarks were reported in The Observer the following what he dubbed his "magical Sunday, 24 January, under the brand X"-and to consider how



If teenagers feel they can be open about sex, unwanted pregnancies are less likely

headline "Contraceptive jabs (sic) forecast for children" but failed to elicit a reaction. They were then reported in General Practitioner, the magazine for family doctors, whence they were picked up by the Press Association, which put Professor Guillebaud's views to a range of anti-abortion and right-wing family organisations, which reacted with fury. The story subsequently ran yesterday in most national news-

papers and on TV and radio. In the furore, facts got lost. At the Royal Society of Medicine's conference, Professor Guilleband had been setting out his vision of the future, not of the present. Nor had he advocated compulsion. Contraception should always be a matter of choice, he said.

Even as a future scenario, his vision is not uncontroversial. What he had tried to do was to look forward to the day, at least a decade hence, when the perfect, reversible contraceptive became available

society might react. He acknowledged that medical science was running ahead of social attitudes and that family planning groups were wary of intervening in such a way in the lives of such young people.
"But you can imagine that one day it would seem natural

Women would finally be free from risky methods such as the pill

to take this kind of action," he

added. Indeed, you can. To me, as the father of a 10-year-old daughter (and teenage sons), the idea of dealing with the mechanics of preventing pregnancy in an efficient and riskfree way has a strong appeal. It would leave parents and teachers free to focus on the emotional context of relationships - the importance of respect the avoidance of hurt and at its heart.

the value of friendship and love -without being sidetracked by reminders to pack a condom with the taxi fare home. The fear that easier contra-

ception means easier more nlentiful and more promiscuous sex dominates debate on the moral right. But it is not borne out by the facts. Britain has one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates in the world and the age of first sexual intercourse is dropping. In the Netherlands, where frankness is preferred to ignorance on sexual matters, teenagers begin sexual relationships on average six months later than their British counterparts and their teenage pregnancy rate is lower.

If teenagers feel that there is someone to whom they can take their problems and seek advice, it's more likely they'll be open and confident about discossing sex.

The mechanics of contraception are only one part of sex, but they have a disturbing habit of distracting attention from the relationship that should lie

### POETIC LICENCE

BY MARTIN NEWELL

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MORSE

After 160 years of helping to save lives, Morse code was officially replaced worldwide this week by satellite and ground-based technology. The em, devised in 1840 dy the American Port painter Samuel Morse, will no longer be used for maritime distress signals.



Dots and dashes didit didit Did it in the films And way out in the woolly west Awaiting freight from Santa Fe A marshall in the midday sun Stands apprehensive with a gun As sagebrush miles along the track The buzzards squatting on the poles Hear signals whisper down the wires Past cactus, cowskulls, gopher holes Where tumbleweed goes rolling by And three bad hombres wait to die...

Dots and dashes didit didit Did it down the line When Mister Morse tapped out his test What hath God wrought!" The sentence stayed Unanswered by the snoozing past Until the future spoke at last And wagons came. And men and mines Then motor cars and longer lines Spread out across the yawning land Til progress had the upper hand.

Dots and dashes didit didit Did it later on. In radio blips from storm-tossed ships Whenever wind and wave kicked up And hapless vessels in distress Their flares gone up, gone down, gone out Still sent a desperate SOS The universal rescue shout.

The dots and dashes didit didit Did it for so long It's odd to think they won't be there Their crotchet/quavers in the air Dot dot dot dash - the letter V The wartime sign for Victory Was Beethoven's Fifth Symphony And Samuel Morse's rhapsody The tune still buried where he hid it Didit didit didit didit

THE THURSDAY REVIEW

Management of the Land of the

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IT WEEK'S DILEMMA

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# Knights at the opera

Nikolaus Lehnhoff has some serious thoughts about his new production of Parsifal. By Edward Seckerson

he secrets of Nikolaus Lehn hoff's forthcoming English National Opera production of Wagner's Pursiful are contained on dozens of Post-it notes clinging, like a coded commentary, to the pages of his vocal score. There are diagrams, there are cryptic messages, there are questions, there are even answers. But they are for his eyes only.

The blocking is documented here well in advance of the first rehearsal - who stands where, with whom, and why. Likewise movement is carefully prescribed precisely tailored to the demands of the music. The positioning of the 48 Knights of the Grail adorns one page of the score like alternative notes on an alternative stave or primitive sketches relating to some ancient masonic rite. It's all very mysterious; all very mathematical. And all

subject to change, of course. Lehnhoff insists that he is not one of those autocratic German directors whose first word is his last word - though he does refer to the score as his "Regie book", which may be translated as "stage-management" or "state-monopoly".

He arrives hot-foot from rehearsal. score in hand, an eager and highly loquacious man who simply cannot wait to let you in on his act. Parsiful, he tells you, has taken a long time to feed itself into his soul, almost as long as it took Wagner to write. Lehnhoff was always uncomfortable with it. The music was attractive, but not the ethos surrounding it. He had long felt that Pursiful had been hijacked for its religious symbolism. The character of Gurnemanz was not, in his view, "the Evangelist of the St Parsifal Passion". There was more, much more, to this piece than the triumph of Christianity over paganism. He would, in time, dig deeper. Since signing on for the ENO production. three other companies (including our own Royal Opera) have approached him to do Parsifal. "What was in the air?" he asks. His cue to do it.

Lehnhoff is a scholar of Theatre History and Musicology from the universities of Munich and Vienna. He grew up with scores such as Parsifal. He was weaned on Wagner. He knows how long everything takes ("Useful for that species of opera director who actually likes music," he adds pointedly). And he knows that the key to a thorough understanding of these prodigious (and elusive) works lies somewhere between the text, which says one thing, and the music, which might say another.

He slaps his hand down on the vocal illustration on its cover: a crumpled cartoon knight resembling something out of Asterix. "Isn't it extraordinary? Maybe this is how I should do Parsifal," he says, with sufficient conviction to have you wondering if he might indeed be capricious enough to do just that. He has a waspish sense of humour and a healthy cynicism. It's his way of wearing the scholarship lightly, of leavening the seriousness with which Germans traditionally labour their cultural heritage.

Lehnhoff is very much a part of that heritage, yet somehow apart from it. He is his own man, his own one-man show, if you like - no agent, no permanent posting, no ties.



Nikolaus Lehnhoff grew up with scores such as 'Parsifal', and strives to find the meaning that lies between the text and the music Kalpesh Lathigra

Conditions (a schedule and environment conducive to work) are more important to him than money. Which is why he loves working at Glyndebourne - scene of his highly-praised Janacek productions (he returns there this summer for Smetana's The Bartered Bride) - and why he empathises with Wagner, who built his own theatre - the Bayreuth Festival Theatre - in an attempt to insulate his works from what Lehnhoff amusingly refers to as "the fire-escape regime" of repertory opera.

Lehnhoff spent 12 precious years at Bayreuth working with (and at this point serious Wagnerians will bend the knee) the composer's grandson, Wieland Wagner, whom he assisted on (and really serious endary 1951 production of Parsiful. This production was regarded as the summation of all the then radical concepts of light and space and dimension that Wieland (a designer and photographer) had brought to his minimalistic Bayreuth stagings.

When Richard Wagner famously said that now he had discovered "the invisible orchestra" (the pit at Bayreuth is hooded from the audience's view) he would search for "the invisible theatre", Lehnhoff believes that he had glimpsed the future according to Wieland. Could less be more? Lehnhoff's Parsifal promises less and more: an endgame for the turn of the cen-

out the rituals of Parsiful without seeking to confront and to explore the deeper and more uncomfortable truths that lie behind them. Parsifal, he says in hushed, conspiratorial tones, "is an opera about the homelessness of humanity in the 20th century". Each of the characters have lost their way, each has experienced trauma, each wanders aimlessly into an uncertain future, survivors in a wasteland. "This is a world longing for death," he says, "a world locked into a kind of standstill, stalemate - Totenstarre [rigor mortis]."

Lehnhoff's 'Parsifal' promises to be an endgame for the turn of the century

At the heart of his conception is the belief that the Knights of the Holy Grail and the perverted Christ figure of Amfortas symbolise the closed societies, religious ideologies, sects, denominations and cults that divide us. "All were founded with the best of intentions," he says, "but instead of bringing humanity together, they have torn it apart - and all in the name of God. Amfortas's wound is our wound mankind, civilisation..." And to heal is to tury. He sees no point in merely playing regenerate, to find a common language

with which we - the human race -can begin communicating again.

And is that common language "Christianity" in the purest sense? A new world order? An end to ideologies and religious in-fighting? Lehnhoff will not answer directly, preferring to to let the production speak for itself (though 30 or so minutes have now passed since he opted "not to give too much away"). All he will say is that the character of Parsifal is "the force of nature", the catalyst through which the healing process may begin. A new millennium. A second chance.

Like all truly great works of art, Pursiful poses more questions than it answers. Today's answers are tomorrow's quesered why the knights' and flower maidens' both represent the extended arms of power systems?), but that realisation may have more dramatic repercussions in his next production, or even the one after that. All he can hope to do for now is clearly to represent his current thinking on stage.

Clarity was something he learned from Wieland Wagner. The rhythms and dynamics of staging; stillness that speaks; gestures that mean something. Lehnhoff learned how and why an operatic character standing in one place for 20 minutes could be exciting. He learned about the power of a single, central metaphor. In his thrilling Glyndebourne production of Janacek's The Makropoulos Case, the entire set moved inexorably, imperceptively throughout the evening, the ground literally shifting beneath the feet of the opera's heroine. Emilia Marty, shifting to the rhythm of eternal life. Because life moves slowly when you're 300 years old. The tension created was extraordinary, both music and drama heightened, extended, stretched to the limit.

Being a musical as well as a theatrical animal, Lehnhoff's relationships with conductors has always been unusually close. On Parsiful, Mark Elder has been present at every rehearsal - a rare occurence in opera, but one which mirrors the significant des ne established when he was assistant to such great names as Karl music share the same key (because they Böhm and Herbert von Karajan, who insisted that he was by his side in the pit during performances of Wagner's Ring at the New York Met, with a hotline to the lighting booth (Lehnhoff to lighting control: "More light on Wotan"; lighting con-trol to Lehnhoff: "Which one is he?"). When Lehnhoff told Karajan that Wagner took only 2 hours 4 minutes over Das Rheingold (Karajan's favourite Ring opera), Karajan was determined to match it.

Back at the Coliseum, Lehnhoff will doubtless be reminding Elder of Wagner's speeds for Parsifal. Drama, he'll be saying; we're in the theatre, not in church.

# Violent steps

DANCE EDWARD II SADLER'S WELLS LONDON

NARRATIVE BALLET is not dead, although David Bintley has made a few duds on the way. His Edward II. created for the Stuttgart Ballet in 1995. was staged for Birmingham Royal Ballet two years later and has been packing regional theatres ever since. It has been a long time coming to London but it was worth the wait so that it could punch us in the face, and hold and horrify our attention.

"A dark and bloody piece," as Bintley has said, Edward II is a two-act ballet based on Christopher Marlowe's play. It is a grown-up ballet, unusual in that its characters are nearly all men and that it deals with homosexuality. Perhaps that is why Jasper Conran tries to introduce an occasional contemporary note in his costumes - to highlight the drama's immediacy and present day relevance - although the second half's sudden shift to lounge suits jars as self conscious contrivance in his otherwise effective visual scheme.

Homosexuality and the struggle for political power: Edward II neglects his kingdom and alienates his wife Isabella in his infatuation with Piers Gaveston; his barons, led by Mortimer, pitch the country into insurrection and enlist Isabella's support. On the programme's printed page, the synopsis reads like a dense tangle of opposing wills. Yet on the stage, the action sweeps you up in its headlong rush like a tautly plotted thriller, even if this is at the expense of choreographic subtlety.

In this, Bintley is given tremendous support by his company. Wolfgang Stollwitzer - Stuttgart's original Edward, now a member of ERB - is a compelling and handsome focus as the anti-hero king, a golden figure whose irresponsibility leads to his tragedy. Sabrina Lenzi is a lovely Isabella, the frightened and vulnerable young bride arrived from France. Joseph Cipolla is a suitably thunderous, looming Mortimer, the arch-manipulator who seduces Isabella in his search for political might. It says a lot for the skill of the choreographer and his cast that they manage as the story progresses to turn the tables on our sympathies, so that by the end Edward is the martyr and Isabella a deserved outcast.

Their duets vividly encapsulate the emotional twists and turns. And so do Bintley's sensational set-pieces, such as the one presenting the horrible disarray of civil war, with criss-crossing lines of combating forces, and among them the appalling spectre of Death. Meanwhile, John McCabe's score rumbles and pounds, re-enforcing the drama's every twist, and Peter J Davison's sets prove wonderfully sinister. Do see Edward II: there is a lot of violence and dving, but you will enjoy it.

NADINE MEISNER

Booking: 0171-863 8000. A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

# The man who shot the Sixties

Lennon, Jagger, Marianne Faithfull... John 'Hoppy' Hopkins photographed them all in their prime. And only now is his work being discovered again. By Chris Arnot

derpants. And his underpants were on his head as he danced happily on his 40th birthday at the party that went on all night in a basement in Chelsea John Lennon turned up, took one look at Ginsberg in the buff and said: "You can't do that in front of birds." Well, it was 1965 and Yoko was still some way in the future. John "Hoppy" Hopkins photographed them all, and many more. His picture of Ginsberg's party-piece is part

THE POET Allen Ginsberg

was naked apart from his un-

of an exhibition of his photojournalism which opened on Monday at the Light House gallery in Wolverhampton. The photos cover a comparatively short period: starting in 1960 when Hopkins gave up his short career as a nuclear physicist and finished in 1965 when he began to drift into the psychedelic scene in London.

Now 61, he lives in a bleak part of Islington. His collection of 1300 negatives would have continued to languish in a cardboard box were it not for a chance meeting with Evelyn Wilson, curator at the Light House. Of the 30 photographs he has chosen, most were used by broadsheet newspapers, or in Melody Maker, Queen Mag-

azine or Peace News. A few are being published for the first time, notably two atmospheric shots reflecting the seediness of Notting Hill in the Sixties. One shows a bloated tattooist at work on the fleshy back of a young



John Hopkins with Julie Felix and Michele Poole in Trafalgar Square in 1968

woman, the other a rubber Stones "all-nighter". A couple fetishist in the kitchen of his bedsit. What makes the picture intriguing is the very ordinariness of his surroundings. His rubber boots are planted on mock-parquet line. His rubber pants are leaning against a draining board cluttered with Lark, Vim and other household names. To his right is the sort of water heater that would now be confined to a museum.

No wonder Evelyn Wilson says: "These pictures seem very far removed from today." Another shows a summer dawn streaming in through a window at Alexandra Palace towards the end of a Rolling

are clutching each other on an almost deserted dancefloor and they're wearing overcoats - not exactly fashion items for all-night ravers in the Nineties.

The Stones feature elsewhere: Brian Jones with his back to the audience at the Ally Pally, Mick and Keith barely awake before hmch in a Soho caff. So clear is the print that you can traces of acne on Keith Richard's unlined face.

It's the freckles that catch the eve in a close-up of Marianne Faithfull, looking young and virginal in 1965. "She was so beautiful," says Hopkins, "that people under-estimated her intelligence."

counter-culture. "It was the first time people

Not something you could say about Allen Ginsberg who is pictured in the same year, fully clothed this time, addressing the Poets of Our Time reading, a key event in the development of the Sixties

could look around and say: Hey, there are 7,000 here, or however many holes it takes to fill the Albert Hall," says Hoppy who, by the following year, had become something of a hippy. He was one of those behind a well-meaning but failed attempt to improve education for black children in Notting Hill. The London Free School set up in a burnt-out basement. fires on an earth floor," he says. "It was like something out of the Middle Ages. But it wasn't successful because we weren't good at organising.' As his money from photojournalism drained away, he had the bright idea of a fundraising gig and the even brighter idea of using a young band managed by two friends. They were called Pink Floyd. After three "mobbed-out"

"We were cooking on open

gigs in a church hall, Hopkins found them a better venue. The UFO opened in Tottenham Court Road on December 23, 1966, and stayed open all night. It was Britain's first psychedelic nightclub. Jimi Hendrix would call in and jam. Various Beatles "hung out" there.

Hopkins enjoyed the music but his first love, one suspects, is jazz. Indeed, his favourite photo is of the hands of Thelonious Monk playing the piano in Birmingham in 1964, It is, indeed, a beautiful picture, the ebony and ivory juxtaposed with beautifully lit black hands protruding from white cuffs. But what makes it even more special to the man behind the camera is that it has been signed by Monk himself. A photographer who has known so many celebrities can still be a bit star-struck.

Pop, Protest and Psychedelia by John "Hoppy" Hopkins is at the Light House, Wolverhampton, until 28 February



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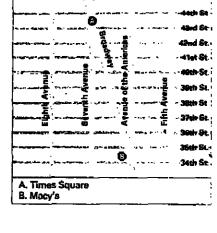
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\*THE INDEPENDENT

# One child in five suffers mental stress

By JEREMY LAURANCE

PRESSURES ON children to succeed and mollycoddling by parents who fear for their safety are turning out a young generation that is emotionally illiterate and at an increased risk of mental breakdown, a report claimed yesterday.

One in five people aged four to twenty is estimated to suffer from problems, ranging from bed-wetting to anorexia, which significantly disrupt their lives.

The toll of mental ill health has been rising in all developed countries since the Second World War and neglect of children's emotional needs in the modern world is to blame. according to the report, by the Mental Health Foundation.

In a three-year study, The Big Picture, published yesterday, which examined more than 1,000 pieces of evidence, the foundation concludes that children are failing to thrive emotionally are becoming less resilient and less able to cope with the ups and downs of life.

It says children are represented as "evil demons" or as "dolls and angels" but not as humans, and that an adult-centred society treats them as "designer accessories or pampered pets". The pressures on them to achieve are enormous but too little is done to help them to build the resilience they need to cope when things go wrong. "Huge sums [are invested] in our children's intellectual abil-



'Children must be allowed to try things and be free to experiment so that they develop their own abilities to solve problems'

ities and there can be no reason for not investing in their dren and the family the report mental health and emotional warns that they "still pussyfoot intelligence," the report says.

government initiatives on chilaround the fundamental fact tal and emotional health." Although welcoming recent that the root cause of so much

society as a whole is poor men-

dysfunction in individuals, in the foundation, said risk-taking families, in schools, and in by children was an essential over-regimented lives imposed June McKerrow, director of by worried parents had reduced

their opportunities to learn from their mistakes. plan and take control, they

"Children must be able to

and be free to experiment so abilities to solve problems.

that they develop their own "We know some things will

right and then they can choose where to place their energies." Ms McKerrow said many social problems, such as unemployment, were beyond the power of governments to solve and people had to be emotionally prepared to cope with the consequences by extending their personal resources and interests.

Schools played a key role but there was "huge concern" about the narrowness of the National Curriculum. For primary school children, playing with their peers was an important part of their development, but this is under threat, she said.

"Teachers say they have had to cut the playtime of five-yearolds by up to half and drop singing lessons in order to make more time for arithmetic. There is no time to build emotional intelligence - it is all focused on the three Rs."

By changing social attitudes to children, many of the risks to their mental health could be reduced. But for those children who succumbed to the pressures and showed signs of failing to progress at school or found it difficult to make friends, early intervention was needed in the form of treatment, counselling, peer support or specific initiatives such as anti-bullying programmes.

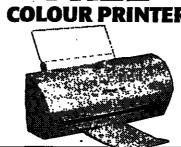
"A fundamental shift in society is needed to accept that 'mental' health can be a positive as well as a negative state."

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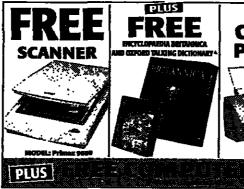
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THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

# Women find home less satisfying

MORE WOMEN than ever be- By KATE WATSON-SMYTH fore have become increasingly disenchanted with the state of their family life, according to a new survey published yesterday.

In the survey, conducted by the monthly women's magazine Prima, seven in ten said that home life was less satisfying not have enough time to fulfil al tasks satisfactorily, while 31 per cent said the Government should help by providing statesponsored nurseries for working mothers. Some 80 per cent said tax relief was the best motive for marrying, and staying

married. The survey examined women's attitudes on a wide range of family issues. They were asked about the competing demands of children and work. single motherhood and the importance of marriage. There was strong support for marriage with 78 per cent describing it as vital for stable family life and 54 per cent saying divorce should be made more dif-

ficult. Launching the survey, Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, said families were under more pressure than ever before. Cherie and I have always tried to make sure we have time for each other and the kids," he said. "We do live in a goldfish than ever before, blaming lack bowl, so it's all the more imof time and the cost of childcare. portant to keep your feet on the Forty-one per cent said they did ground and try to make life as normal as possible for our-

Tessa Jowell, the Public Health minister, said: "The survey has captured a very clear snapshot of attitudes to family life in Britain today - a strong vote of confidence goes to family life and the importance of marriage."

The report, based on 1,000 replies, was part of a campaign by Prima that is intended to investigate all aspects of family

life in Britain. The magazine said the survey had posed "fundamental questions which offered the women of Britain the opportunity to help the Government develop strategies that will shape family life in the future".

### Mobile phone failures exposed

By CHARLES ARTHUR Technology Editor

MOBILE PHONE companies' coverage often does not match the promises of their advertising, according to a study produced for the telecommunications watchdog Oftel.

Despite claims by the four main networks that they cover almost 100 per cent of the population, in practice making a phone call can be a frostrating experience with, for example, up to 25 per cent of calls being cut off during rail journeys for users of the Vodafone network Even in cities, users of One 2 One's service can find that only 91 per cent work, which means that almost one phone call in 10 may "drop out" mid-sentence. The best on both counts was Orange, where 97 per cent of city calls and 89 per cent of rail calls were successful.

Oftel commissioned the survey, from Freshfields Commuications, after the networks refused to offer their own independent figures that might help prospective users to decide which was the best network.

"There needs to be clarity so that people can compare the quality of service between netvorks to get the best deal," said Edmonds.

He will repeat the survey

SUCCESS RATE Orange Vodafone One to One 🕸 For rail journeys One to One 148/ Vodafone 73 15

ange, One 2 One, Cellnet and Vodafone - start offering such independent data themselves. The survey used comput-

erised equipment to try to make 90-second calls in three cities - London, Edinburgh, and Cardiff - and on rail lines between London, Edinburgh, Crewe and Cardiff.

The railway coverage was noticeably variable. "On the trains in rural areas, much lower call success rates were experienced, which, of course, will contribute significantly to customer dissatisfaction on those routes," the report noted.

The networks said that they are working on ways to offer

# The human volcano

Said Taghmaoui's anger first exploded on to our screens in La Haine. Hollywood has been on his trail ever since, but Morocco's first bona fide film star is the last person to compromise with 'show business'. By John Wrathall

aid Taghmaoui complains of jet lag, having criss-crossed the Atlantic between Italy, where he has just finished a film. Los Angeles, where he is preparing his first Hollywood role, and London, where he has flown in for the premiere of Hideous Kinky and a long day of press interviews. But you wouldn't know it to look at him. A moment ago he was bouncing around in Hyde Park for the photographer, and now, in a deserted disco in the bowels of the Dorchester, he is pretending to be a DJ, miming over imaginary decks as he scratches his own conversation

- "Oh my god, tch tch tch, oh my god..."

It doesn't take a great leap of imagination to see why director Gillies MacKinnon (who launched a number of young Brits in Small Faces) cast him as Bilal, the irrepressible Marrakesh acrobat who takes up with a young English hippy (Kate Winslet) and her two daughters in Hideous Kinky, an adaptation of Esther Freud's novel. To prepare for the role. Taghmaoui spent a month training as an acrobat before plying his trade in one of the world's most competitive arenas - Marrakesh's seething central square, the Djemaa el Fna. "You have to be really strong to get the attention of all those people," he sighs. But somehow I'm sure he managed.

Hideous Kinky lights up whenever Taghmaoui is on screen. "He's a volcano," says MacKinnon. "Even when he's physically put a lid on it, you can tell by his eyes that it could all erupt at any moment." Before acting. Taghmaoui was a boxer, and it's easy to imagine him strutting about in the ring, arms raised in triumph.

Born and brought up in Paris, the youngest of 10 in a family of Moroccan immigrants, Taghmaoui remains intensely proud of his Berber heritage. His family come from near Essaouira, itself something of a magnet for hippies in the Sixties when Jimi Hendrix hosted parties on the beach there. When not extolling the culture and tradition of his spiritual homeland, Taghmaoui is keen to promote its strengths as an ideal film location. "Morocco has the best light I've seen in my life," he says. "And good professionals - a lot of movies are made there, with the best directors in the world."

A couple of years ago, when Taghmaoui was acting in The Garden of Eden, one of the Italian biblical epics that seem to be permanently shooting at the enormous Atlas Studios outside the southern desert town of Ouarzazate, Scorsese was across the way shooting Kundun, with the High Atlas standing in for Tibet.



Said Taghmaoni: 'All the blah, blah and the fashion are just show business - cinema is different'

maoni states matter-of-factly. It's easy to understand why: Taghmaoui isn't just a one-man tourist board, but the first Moroccan to make it big in international cinema (with the possible exception of-Fassbinder's muse and sometime lover, El Hedi ben Salem, who came to a bad end. hanging himself in a French jail). Taghmaoui won't be drawn to speculate on Morocco's future when Hassan, who has kept a tight grip on the country for nearly 40 years, finally dies. But when the conversa-tion strays to neighbouring Algeria, the volcano suddenly flashes again. "Of course this country's fucked up, after 150 years of colo-

nialism," he snaps. "Imagine, I come to your

house and say to your children, 'You're not

"King Hassan is very proud of me," Tagh- who speaks English, I will fuck his mother." Imagine this for 150 years."

The anger in his eyes will be familiar to anyone who saw La Haine, the film which rocked France in 1994. An explosive day in the life of three disaffected young men from the troubled banlieues of Paris, it revolved around Taghmaoui's Said, the character we follow from the film's opening shot, and the only one still alive at the end. Taghmaoui was only 21 when he helped director Mathieu Kassovitz write La Haine, which went on to win the scriptwriting prize at Cannes. "A lot of things happened when La Haine came out," he says wistfully. "People burned cinemas in France. But you think a movie's going to change anything? A revolution is made with weapons, not with movies."

Taghmaoui was courted by Hollywood, but never found a script he liked. He got to meet Tom Cruise, but he remains defiantly unfazed by celebrity, including that of his Hideous Kinky co-star Winslet, who since shooting the film in Morocco in 1997 has been transformed into the star of the Most Successful Film of All Time, complete with entourage. (She is holding court in a neighbouring room - presumably why we're at

the Dorchester in the first place.) "When you're really hungry, and you have nothing to eat," Taghmaoui asks rhetorically, "who is impressive then? Maybe an apple is impressive. What's important is what you put in the movie - on la pellicule - because that will stay. All the blah blah blah, the fashion, is just show business. But cinema and show business are two different things.

Tom Craig Sometimes they have to deal together,

that's all."

However, Taghmaoui has succumbed to the lure of Hollywood, and is about to star alongside George Clooney in Three Kings, a film about the Gulf War by David O Russell, known for the spiky comedies Spanking the Monkey and Flirting with Disaster. Hollywood has had a pretty blinkered view of Arab issues - "horrible, racist" is how Taghmaoui describes the depiction of Islamic terrorists in True Lies and Executive Decision. But Three Kings, he says, will break the mould. "According to this film, the war is only for oil, not to save Kuwait," he says. "It's Apocalypse Now for the Gulf War." The volcano, you sense, is almost ready to erupt.

Hideous Kinky' is reviewed opposite

### DOUBLE BILL

CLAUDE MILLER. DIRECTOR OF 'CLASS TRIP' ON HIS IDEAL CINEMATIC PAIRING





THE SEARCHERS (JOHN FORD, 1956) **BREAKING THE WAVES** (LARS VON TRIER, 1996)

I HAVE chosen these two films not because of their relevance to the history of cinema, but more because they have formed an integral part of the history of my own emotions. In The Searchers, John Wayne is a violent, racist Indian hunter. Towards the end he pursues his niece. Natalie Wood, who was abducted at an early age and raised by Indians. When Wayne catches up with her. you think her time has come. But he picks her up in his arms and says: "Come on

Debbie, we are going home. In Breaking The Waves. Emily Watson has been raised in a very strict puritanical and religious way, and has just married the man of her dreams. She calls him from a phone box to tell him explicitly, and rather crudely, how much she loves him. Especially his big knob.

Cinema can show how emotions erupt and change the course of one life, breaking the barriers that make a person follow unwritten rules bred into them through education and culture. Watching these two films together, I would expect the public to be deeply moved. their emotions challenging their pre-conceived ideas and stereotypes, if any,

It can't hurt to spend five hours completely captivated. Being a film-maker, I do not believe in analysing too intellectually the films I enjoy. I leave this to the critics. INTERVIEW BY

JENNIFER RODGER

### VIDEO WATCH

The X Files Movie (15), available to rent now In which our heroes, Mulder and Scully (David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson) retire to Kent to take an evening course in crop-circle-making.

Maria (m. m.) B city'

Not really, more's the pity. But you don't half wish

creator, Chris Carter, could have let the director, Rob Bowman, stray from the spooks'n'spaceships formula for the show's big-screen

It's the usual suspects: secret governments and aliens, this time in cahoots with a plan to recolonise the with the special effects: earth. What coherence there there's nothing coy about the is, is down to the residual depiction of parasitic aliens strength of the TV show's or their vast breedingcharacterisation and its stations (both of which are rip-offs of Alien and that ropy exploitation of millennial Eighties serial, V). conspiracy mania, Bowman. however, departs from the television series in letting rip

High and Low (12), available to buy, £15.99 You wouldn't have thought Akira Kurosawa would be an Ed McBain fan, but, sure enough, the American writer's novel is the source of this tense detective thriller. A boy is snatched in the grounds of a wealthy industrialist, Kingo Gondo (Toshiro Mifune), but it isn't long before everyone, kidnapper included, realises that it's not Gondo's son but his chauffeur's who's been taken by mistake. Regardless, the kidnapper maintains his demand for a

The first hour is given over to Gondo's quandary. He finds it difficult to show the same willingness to meet the kidnapper's demands when it transpires that it's not his own flesh and blood at risk.

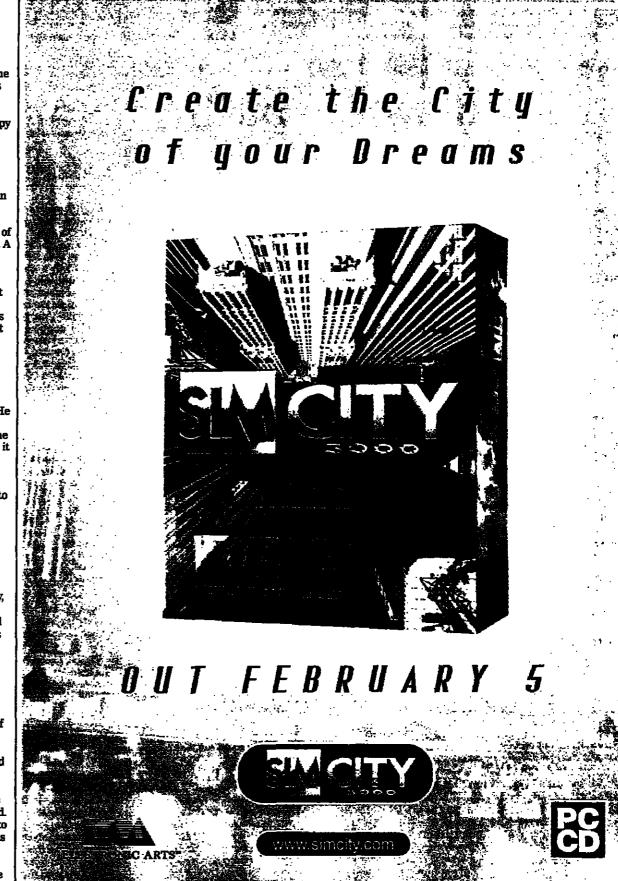
ruinous ransom.

Once the plight of the kidnapped child is brought to a head, however, Kurosawa moves from the sweaty theatre of Gondo's sittingroom to the streets of suburban Tokyo. It's a complete change in tone to the first hour or so.

The methodical ingenuity, as well as humanity, of the police sweep you along until an abrupt conclusion brings you up hard against the pitiful desperation of the kidnapper

Metroland (18),

available to rent now Philip Saville's adaptation of Julian Barnes's novel is studiously crafted and thoroughly dull. It's 1977 and Chris (Christian Bale) doesn't know what panics him most: his mortgage, his marriage, his job or his child. Bafflingly, Saville seems to think that Chris's dilemma is unexplored cinematic territory and he takes laborious pains to dramatise that old chestnut, responsibility vs desire





# How will you fill the gap?

A six-month sabbatical from work - it sounds like a dream, but it could be part of your job contract. By Kate Hilpern

aking a gap year, employers are increasingly recognising, is not such a bad thing. If you've travelled, you'll have gained independence, a sense of adventure and an appetite for challenge. And even if you spent it at home, you're likely to have gained some kind of additional expertise. Imagine, then, how much more em-

ployers could gain from providing their staff with a chance to take a break during employment. "One assumption is that they'll lose money as well as suffering from employees losing touch in their absence." explains Angela Baron of the Institute of Personnel and Development. "But more and more organisations are realising that it allows employees to take time to self-develop, to fulfil their dreams, and to return to work with renewed enthusiasm."

Apple Computer is perhaps at the forefront of sabbatical programmes in the UK. After five years' service, it forces staff members to take a one-month paid break, on to which they can add annual leave. "It gives people a chance to do that Australia trip, or take up a course," says a spokesperson. "And we gain, because it induces staff to stay with the company as well as working hard because there's such a at county council offices. Similarly, at generous reward. For some, it's more en- Unilever, it is reported that very few male ticing than a promotion.'

Likewise, at McDonald's, a paid leave of eight weeks is given to employees with ten years' service. "Often, employees simply use the time to reflect what direction their career is going in - so when they very best out of them," comments spokeswoman Fenelia Burns.

Even career breaks - which are generally longer than sabbaticals as well as being unpaid - can benefit companies enormously, says Angela Baron. "If the choice is between losing a good employee that you've invested a lot of effort and money in training, or allowing them a year off to climb a mountain or bring up their kids, there shouldn't be any contest."

Tesco, for instance, finds its enhanced career-break scheme an effective way to a sabbatical or break and then resign. retain people with skills and knowledge, as well as avoiding any costs of recruiting newcomers. Like most schemes, the supermarket chain's allows qualifying can-

didates to take up to five years off work. Naturally many employers require a formal interview first. In this case, says Jean Balcombe of the Industrial Society, it is es- cause they have the opportunity to take a sential to identify your real value to your belated gap year, but also because it's an employer, the costs he or she would have excellent opportunity to step in and prove in replacing you; your skills, experience yourself as a replacement when you hear and knowledge; and how your plans fit into that a colleague in a higher position is takyour employers' future development and ing leave of absence."

planned growth. "Where possible, suggest doing a number of job assignments in your absence - keeping you up-to-date with changes," says Balcombe.

Gillian Cann, 37, recently took a five-year career break from her job at Abbey National. "You've got to be pro-active about keeping in touch - it's so easy to lose confidence when you're away from your desk, especially when, like me, you've spent the time at home bringing up children."

It's also essential to ensure that em-

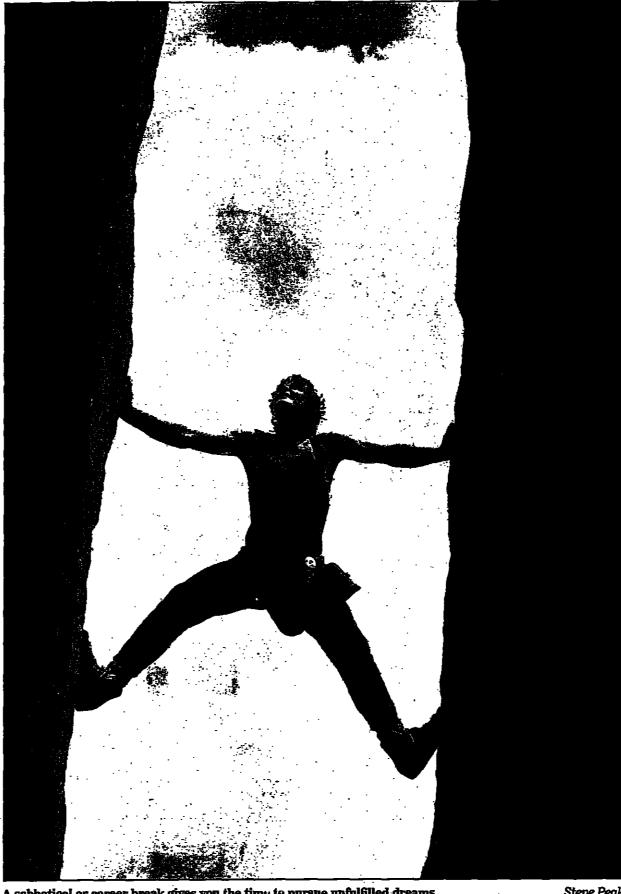
ployers make careful plans for your return. Rachel Howarth, 28, took eight months off in 1997, after working as a customer services manager at Tesco for 18 months. 'Upon my return, I was given instant advice on relevant opportunities - and soon after, was promoted to personnel manager in a bigger store, and am set to become store manager in 12 months' time. I guess Tesco realised that there is a lot of competition in the retail market for head-hunting staff, and they were careful not to let that happen with me. It's worked, because they've been so caring that I wouldn't want to work anywhere else."

Perhaps surprisingly, some organisations have an extremely low take-up rate for career breaks. This is certainly the case employees take up the option, while women only tend to use the break if they're having children.

"Many people - especially graduate recruits who have not been with the company long - may be concerned about not feelreturn, we have the benefit of getting the ing needed," explains organisational psychologist, Mary Aitkinhead.

Another explanation is that, in an uncertain job market, employees are concerned that the job may not be there when they return, or that their replacement may prove more competent. There is also, of course, the potential loss of income, even in paid leave, if large bonuses or individual performance related pay is a normal feature of employment. And there are some drawbacks for the employer, such as the danger that disgruntled staff will take

Nevertheless, research carried out by Conference Board recently found that over 24 per cent of participating US organisations now offer such breaks, and Britain is not far behind. "Graduates are at a particular advantage," says careers adviser Camilla Saunders. "Not only be-



A sabbatical or career break gives you the time to pursue unfulfilled dreams

### A-Z OF **EMPLOYERS**

THE MET OFFICE

Agei 148

History: The Met Office began as part of the Board of Trade, led by Vice Admiral Fitzroy – better known as Captain of the Beagle, which took Darwin on his voyage of discovery. In the early 1900s, the office moved to the Air Ministry; it's still an agency of the Ministry of Defence. But since April 1996, it has operated as a Trading Fund, with one shareholder; the Government.

Address: Based in London Road, Bracknell.

Ambience: Renowned as a friendly organisation with a team environment and with some independent work. Much of the office is open-plan, although there's a dress code and staff are expected. to be smart - particularly those who appear on telly.

Vital statistics: The office's annual revenue approaches £155m, with the largest customers the MoD (£54m) and the public Met Service (£36m). It also provides forecasts for commercial customers (£24m). It employs just under 2,200 people in more than 80 locations.

Lifestyle: Staff work 37 hours per week net,. There's also opportunity for foreign travel, especially for conferences and seminars.

Easy to get into? Up to 3,000 graduates apply every year, with just 200 vacancies. You don't, however, need a specific grade of degree. Relevant experience is also taken into consideration. Sandwich placements and summer work experience is also a possibility; graduates should apply by letter, enclosing a CV.

Glittering alumni: Bill Giles, erstwhile television presenter, is just one graduate from the Met Office.

Pay: Starting pay depends on the iob and experience. It's decided at interview stage, and pay is thence onward performance-related.

Training: Foundation training is available in R&D, IT or forecasting. There's also training at the Met Office College.

Facilities: Staff canteen, "small" bar, gym, sports and social

Who's the boss? Peter Ewins has 1997. Before he joined the Met Office, he was MoD Chief Scientist. RACHELLE THACKRAY

### I need a new path

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YOUR CAREER PROBLEMS SOLVED BY THE EXPERTS

The problem I am 51-years-old and bave been a probation officer for 26 years. Although I am reasonably good at my job and have survived changes at work, I would welcome the stimulus of a different type of job before I retire. My skills include interviewing techniques and answering individuals; one-to-one or group counselling; the preparation of clear and concise pre-sentencing reports for judges and magistrates; interacting with solicitors, psychiatrists, social workers etc. supervising potentially dangerous offenders and sex abusers and the keeping of records. I have a mortgage and three children and would thus be unable to live on a very low income while re-training. I would not consider a teaching job because of the profession's low morale. I dislike driving and would prefer not to live in another county. I am looking for a salary of about £23k. H TOMKIN, DEVON

The solutions Joanna Grigg, author of Portfolio Working: A Practical Guide to Thriving in the Changing

Workplace (Kogan Page, £12.99). says: Wow! What a fantastic array of skills. You have also survived workplace change and welcome more. That's what you need "out there"; specific skills plus the right attitude. But how much effort are you prepared to put into it? Three children and a mortgage sap the energies, and re-training from scratch won't solve the salary needs. Try a "directions" type career and lifestyle assessment. You are "thinking" rather than needing to make change now. You have

time to research, network, plan, gain additional skills or start a business on the side. See if you can do your job part-time. Play with ideas and see how they pan out. Anything is possible; it's true for some people at some stages in their development. Are you ready? Find out.

Elaine Nicholls, Head of Career Development, Career Psychology Ltd. (Trafalgar House, 11 Waterloo Piace, London, SW1Y 4AU, 0171-976 1010), scrys: Making a career change at any time of your life is a difficult and often unsettling experience. Having worked in the same profession for all of your working life can render it even more problematic to identify transferable skills and aptitudes. That said, this is a very exciting time for you because more people are making work changes than ever. It is possible to make a positive change without experiencing too much financial hardship if you seek the right kind of professional advice. Career guidance consultants and occupational psychologists can give you this objective professional advice by using psychometric tests to identify areas of interest, personality traits and aptitudes. They will also take into consideration practical issues such as personal or geographic limitations, your experience and, as a result, identify career options for you - many of which you may not have been aware of. You will also find it easier to absorb advice offered by an independent professional.

As a result, you will have a

clearer insight into your

personal characteristics.

interests and abilities. Having

you should then have a stronger

assessed the options offered,

idea of how to transfer your skills to a specific and more rewarding career, Good consultancies will provide advice on CV compilation, interview technique and jobseeking strategies.

Carolyn Brownsea, Training Helpline Manager, Surrey Training & Enterprise Council,

Changing career direction after 26 years is a serious decision. You state that you are reasonably good at your job; my guess is that 26 years of experience means vou are verv good. In addition, you have a clear picture of your skills - I would suggest that you visit your local careers office and use the database of occupational information to help you identify potential career opportunities. Your local TEC or Employment Service Job Centre will have details of the type of job and skill shortages in the area. Your chosen new career direction may require you to train. A Career Development Loan - which is a deferred repayment, interest-free loan while you train - can pay for the cost of vocational training and any associated costs, such as living expenses. You can borrow between £300 and £8,000 (repayment starts one month after you complete training). Whatever you do, always base our decision on as much information as possible. INTERVIEWS BY

CARMEN MIDDLEDITCH

If you have a work problem and want expert advice, write to Carmen Middleditch, Fast Track, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; for 0171-293 2182: or e-moil: c.fielding@independent.co.uk

# Sabotage – it's all the rage

Hacking, fraud – 'industrial crime' by disgruntled staff is on the rise. By Meg Carter

THE TIME comes when you realise just how much you've given your employer. That you've cancelled your kend to meet that Monday deadline more than once in a while, and you regularly work late in the office. You've been diligent and loyal, and you feel confident that payback time is just round the corner Imagine your frustration, then,

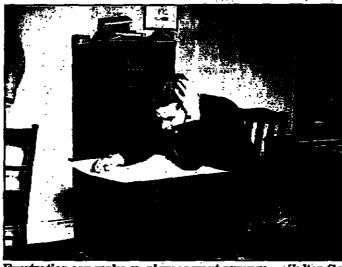
when the promotion you're hoping for goes to someone else. Do you take it on the chin, or do you get your own back by throwing a metaphorical spanner in the works? According to new research, a growing number is opting for the latter.
"Industrial sabotage" is on the

increase, concludes a study published by the American Society of Industrial Security. In fact, American corporations are losing millions of dollars each year due to disgruntled employees taking revenge on their employers.

Dubbed "work rage" by some, the retaliation covers a broad range of tactics from carving malicious graffiti into the door of the office loo to planting computer "bombs" that can cripple an employer's entire IT network. It is now the biggest security worry for nine out of ten US bosses. And although far less research has been carried out in the UK, anecdotal evidence confirms we're catching up fast. Organisational psychologists talk

of a dramatic shift in the nature of the once mutually respectful relationship between employer and employee. Once there was an unwritten expectation that an employee provided loyalty and service for a set working week in exchange for a salary and job security. Recession, however, led to growing pressure on employers to keep costs in check, resulting in dwindling job security, increasing short-term contracts and a move towards more autocratic

management styles. It is against this backdrop that an increasing number of employees are growing frustrated. To add insult



Frustration can make employees want revenge Hulton Getty

age they can cause can be extremely significant - says Cary Cooper professor of organisational psychology at UMIST.

"Before, it simply came down to tampering with a bit of machinery. Now, one individual person can create enormous amounts of damage for an organisation by removing material from a computer system or infecting documents with a virus. It's even possible to target an attack on one particular person - perhaps to put them in a bad light."

Three particular types of workplace circumstances are likely to posh irritable employees to hit back, Professor Cooper believes. "Some may be driven by insecurity. Perhaps they don't feel that enough is going on within their department - so they go and sabotage the system in order to generate more work for themselves," he says.

Alternatively, an employee might seek to tamper with his or her employer's systems in a misplaced attempt to take an ethical stance on their employer's activities or methods of operation. In the public secto injury, there are more ways for tox, David Shayler is the classic them to get back at their employers example of a displeased employee year. And according to a new report unwilling to take the risk.

than ever before - and the potential fighting back. In a commercial setting, whistle-blowing might involve leaking commercially-sensitive materials to the press or worse, a company's competitors.

Peter, a 27-year-old computer programmer, admits that promotion of a less experienced colleague above him tempted him to act less than professionally. "I tampered with the system and corrupted some files, and then made a point of being on hand to sort it all out," he says. "I felt at the time it made me look good, but now I feel quite stupid. I was lucky no one caught me - and that I could sort things out before it was too late."

Not everyone, however is so reticent. One displeased junior employee working for a large medical insurance company dumped a host of medical records, stole the back-up and then tried to blackmail the insurer for their return.

Fraud - which covers a wide range of white-collar crime from malicious damage to theft - is also on the increase. Three out of four UK companies have suffered it in some form in the past five years, according

by the University of Nottingham Business School, middle managers are particularly likely to defraud as they have in-depth knowledge of how their firms work and how to cover their tracks. Official figures showing £5bn of serious fraud every year in the UK is the tip of the iceberg,

claims the report. Small wonder, then, that for younger people entering the workforce, the controls and checks used by a growing number of recruiters have never been greater. "Industrial sabotage" is best countered by installing safeguards - such as pass-words, restricted access and backup systems – in the workplace, Mr Beadle believes. Some companies have even introduced surveillance systems to keep an eye on staff. Other measures include more rigcrous employee vetting.

While employee screening can never give an employer a 100 per cent guarantee of safety, it can highlight applicants who could pose a potential risk by revealing a series of short duration employment, or even evidence of tampering with files or systems before," he says.

The extent to which today's tled and want to hit back at their employers as a result, remains to be seen. Conflicting research suggests that on the one hand, they are just as ambitious as their predecessors, but less likely to accept the status ouo, while on the other, they are more in time with the Nineties style

"Today's graduate recruits prefer the Nineties employer's 'new deal'," believes Mr Conway. "They are young and open to new ideas and want to work more flexibly. Younger recruits respond well to performance related rewards rather than rewards based simply on longevity

of temme - the old approach." British employers may stand to lose less from an irritable workforce than their American cousins - for the time being. Even so, Mr Beadle to a survey published earlier this says, a growing number are

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# Back on the bench – for now

With the Law Commission and High Court already on her CV, could Mary Arden be the first female judge in the House of Lords? By John-Paul Flintoff

last day in the office and she has She is quitting her squat, modern The gun, it transpired, was fake, but building off Gray's Inn Road for no one knew that at the time. premises that are a little smarter, at the Royal Courts of Justice.

Since January 1996, Arden has been chairman of a quango called the Law Commission, with the task a full-time judge in the Chancery Division of the High Court.

The Chancery Division still bears the stigma of Dickens's Jarredyce vs Jarndyce in Bleak House, which dragged on inexorably as the heirs litigated over their inheritance. As she says, "Non-specialists expect Chancery work to involve only the landed gentry, but that is far from being the case." She will frequently have to deal with bankruptcy cases and cases where individuals challenge their local authority. The Chancery Division is also where George Michael's case against Sony was heard, and Paul Gascoigne's contractual dispute took place.

Such cases may be fascinating, but supporters suggest that she will not be staying in the Chancery Division for long. Arden, aged 52, has been widely tipped as the next woman to go to the Court of Appeal (there is currently only one). And with youth on her side, she may even become the first woman judge in the House of Lords.

This is long overdue. It has been several years since a woman was appointed to the Court of Appeal. The last 17 appointments to the High Court and above have all been men. Critics of the current system of judicial appointments, which depends on word-of-mouth recommendations, say that it excludes women.

The former chairman of the Law Commission and her husband, Mr Justice (Jonathan) Mance, are the first husband and wife to work together at the High Court. Arden recalls one lunch time in February recently with a mortgage fraud 1997, when she received a call from knew that her husband was "last has not been slow in handling the the boxes. Who knows where those seen being followed by a woman with criticisms that the commission has boxes may be unpacked again in the a gun". The woman, distressed by faced - her appearance on Radio 4's not-too-distant future?

boxes. It is her Recalling that incident, Arden is surprisingly calm: "I told them I had no further information," she recalls. "I desks to tidy, felt confident that if my husband had shelves to clear. been hurt, I would have been told."

Following private school in Liverpool, and Girton College Cambridge, Arden studied at Harvard and then joined Gray's Inn. Specialising in commercial law, she took silk in 1986 of keeping the law up to date and rei- and became a judge in 1993. She adevant. That post has come to an end, mits that she knew relatively little and now she is returning to work as about the Law Commission before she joined it in 1996. "If you are in practice, then you are keen to know the answer when a client rings - or, as a judge, what you should put in your judgments - but you tend not to know much about how the law is reformed," she says.

> A journalist asked Arden if she knew her husband was being followed by a woman with a gun

The Law Commission monitors common law established over the centuries by the courts, and statutory law passed by Parliament. With its slogan of working for better law, it also makes recommendations to keep the law up to date and relevant. Since the commission was

founded in 1965, 70 per cent of its reports have eventually been implemented, but the process is slow, despite the fast-track procedures for measures which have the support of all political parties. One recent DTI Bill, providing for interest on late payments of debt, stemmed originally from a Law Commission report published as long ago as 1978.

Occasionally, says Arden, there can be a swift progression from motion with the Lord Chancellor But research to law itself, as happened measure that was included in the whether she Theit Amendment Act 1996. And she to clearing the shelves and packing

ame Mary Arden the outcome of a child custody Today programme showed that she is packing up battle, had pulled out a gun in court. Was more than capable of explaining the hurdles it faced.

المراجعين المراجع المراجعين المراجعين المراجعين المراجعين المستقل المراجع المراجع المراجع المراجع المراجع المراج

But since the change of government in 1997, a backlog has built up. The last year of the Conservative government was "fallow", and the Labour Government has been too busy with other legislation to implement some of the outstanding recommendations. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, has acknowledged that "there is nothing more frustrating for the Law Commission than producing reports which are of high quality and they just gather dust in Whitehall unnoticed."

Since 1968, the commission has had a long-term aim to codify criminal law. "In Canada," she says, "for just \$25, you can walk into a newsagent and buy a copy of the code that would probably fit into your jacket pocket. That means that the police -- and lay magistrates -- can have a copy available to refer to at any time; and also as a matter of principle, it is right for citizens to have an accessible code." Various areas have already been scrutinised, including offences against the person, involuntary manslaughter, computer misuse and rape within marriage.

Last month, the Home Secretary gave the go-ahead to the commission's proposals to allow hearsay evidence - from frightened or intimidated witnesses, or those who have died or are too ill to attend court. That provoked opposition from civil liberties groups - but recent Law Commission proposals relating to divorce also upset groups on the right, so the view is that the commission is probably steering a safe, middle course. Arden predicts that the process of codifying criminal law will be finished within three to five years.

As for what the next few years will bring for this woman barrister's role model, she inevitably plays down talk of further promotion, saying that she looks forward to sitting again in the High Court. She insists that she has not even discussed prowhen pushed to comment about the House of Lords, she admits: "It would be fun", before hurrying back



Dame Mary Arden, who this week left the Law Commission to return to the High Court

Nicola Kurtz

# Justice for the not-so-rich

TOWARDS THE end of last year, dals, listing a number of Labour MPs supposedly involved in affairs, divorces or incidents of improper sexual conduct since

the May 1997 general election. The article included a reference to Helen Brinton, MP for Peterborough, implying that a complaint about noise coming from her constituency flat was caused by some undefined sexual activity. She was, in fact, giving a dinner party.

Mrs Brinton issued a writ for libel through her solicitors, Peter Carter-Ruck and Partners. "because the article was quite plainly not only wrong, but also totally and utterly defamatory". In an out-of-court settlement last month. The Sun agreed to pay "substantial" damages to the MP and to print an apology in the paper. But without the crutch of a

No-win, no-fee' deals mean we can all afford lawyers. So look forward to lots of litigation. By **Alison Clarke** 

"It is usually high earners, often in the entertainment and publicity fields, who have the resources to bring these claims. This no-win, no-fee arrangement makes it easier

(CFA), Mrs Brinton says she

could not have brought the

for people at all levels, including Labour MPs - not just the very rich - to take action against those who try to smear their names.' Conditional fee arrangements allow lawyers and

clients to enter into an arrangement whereby the client pays next to nothing if he loses, but the lawyer can charge a success fee if he wins. Although the conditional fee agreement

premium of anything up to 100 offering a conditional fee agree-per cent, the Law Society rec-ment in defamation cases. Alasper cent, the Law Society recommends a cap of 25 per cent. And their research shows that the bulk of solicitors are keeping to this voluntary limit.

Although CFAs were first introduced in 1995, lawyers were initially restricted to offering them to claims for personal injury, insolvency or human rights issues. Then in July last year, the scheme was extended to cover all civil proceedings - except family law cases - as a way of ensuring greater access to justice, but this was also seen as a way for the Government to trim the legal aid budget.

That prompted solicitors

dair Pepper, a partner at the

should help some to seek redress who might not previously have been able to." But there are still risks attached to the scheme. Although the client does not pay his lawyer's costs if he loses, he is still liable for any disbursements incurred (such as barrister's fees) and any costs incurred by his opponent. Most

firm, explains that "because legal aid has not been available in defamation cases, the principle of "justice for all" has been blighted. This new scheme

solicitors recommend that would-be litigants take out solicitor can, in theory, increase Peter Carter-Ruck and Part- insurance to cover such an his usual charges by a ners to launch the first scheme eventuality, although this is

ultimately the client's decision. The cost of the one-off premium varies enormously depending on the scale of the proposed litigation and the ikely costs involved.

More importantly, a solicitor will only accept a case on the basis of a no-win, no-fee arrangement if he or she thinks it has a good chance of success. Ruth Collard, another partner at Carter-Ruck who acted for Helen Brinton in her claim, says that there are no hard and fast rules for establishing the likelihood of success. Much will therefore hang on the judgement of the solicitor. But one thing is certain, the greater the risk for the lawyer, the higher the success fee is

likely to be. Although the extension of CFAs may encourage litigation - Ruth Collard reports a tenfold increase in inquiries since the launch of their scheme - the Law Society insists that it is still a far cry from the situation in the US, where lawyers can take a slice of their client's winnings. Known as a contingency fee agreement, it is unlawful in this country, even if a client wants to proceed on that basis. As to what the impact of CFAs on defendants is likely to be, Tom Crone, a lawyer for The

Sun, says it will be negligible. "We get libel claims all the time. We don't publish articles thinking that they might pro-voke a possible claim. We try to get it right, but when we don't, we say sorry and quickly retract what we wrote. Just as we did in the Helen Brinton case."

Although CFAs are unlikely to produce an explosion of litigation, US-style, the attraction of no-win, no-fee agreements will undoubtedly encourage litigants who might otherwise have let the matter drop. Which is good news for lawyers and bad news for the defendants, whoever they may be.

# Human rights hope

MORE THAN 50 years ago, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights trumpeted that "if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resource, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, then human rights should be protected

by the rule of law". No one questions how difficult it is to pursue the perpetrators of crimes against humanity. But in cases of genocide, the answer begs the question: are we really to believe that an international rule of law exists, and that it is effective?

That is not to say that there has not been progress. Last July, a statute was adopted in Rome by the international community which stated the intention to set up a permanent International Criminal Court. Although 74 nations have signed, including the UK, Croatia and Chile, a sizeable number, including the United States, has not yet ratified the statute. If those participating countries do not ratify the statute soon, an opportunity will be lost. But there are glimmers

of hope. In May this year, the Appeal for Peace Global Conference will take place at The Hague. One of its purposes will be to spur efforts towards ratification of the Rome statute, which is currently bogged down in politics and complicated procedural discussion

There have already been a number of moves on a more individual level. Two weeks ago, with seven other senior British barristers and one High Court judge, I spent a weekend at the ad hoc international court for war crimes perpetrated in the

OUR LEARNED



BRUCE HOULDER QC

former territory of Yugoslavia. This is a truly international court, but with a narrow remit. We were there to train lawyers from other jurisdictions, but we also learned much ourselves. Justice Louise Arbour, the court's Chief Prosecutor, hailed the weekend as a success. But her own experience in Kosovo the same weekend was not as fruitful, as her authority was insufficient to persuade Serbian officials who appeared to be determined to deny the right of the international rule of law.

But, generally, this court is proving successful. The prosecutors we met were realistic individuals who are determined to give the rule of international law a good name. What they want is a permanent court to prosecute those who commit genocide wherever it occurs. In the meantime, the nations who shrink from the final step of giving the Rome statute real force are effectively ruining any chance of bringing to justice those responsible for genocide.

Closer to home, the Pinochet débacle (the rehearing is set to end this week) would have been entirely unnecessary if

permanent criminal court. If Chile had failed to prosecute, the statute would have permitted international intervention. The general could have been tried already. Instead, decades on, we have a challenge in the English courts, by the Spanish government with other interested nations each

seeking justice for their wronged citizens. The issue of human rights affects us all. Last year, the Prime Minister said that the Human Rights Act established "a firm foundation - and not a ceiling - for human rights". And surely the ceiling and roof above that edifice should be a permanent court which, by its statute, recognises all those instruments that underpin human rights and freedoms adopted by the international community in

the last 50 years? A humbling message was delivered last December when another party of barristers went to Bangladesh, one of the poorest countries in the world. So, it was with some justification that one of their distinguished Law Commissioners, Justice Naimuddin Ahmed, asked us all: "Can those great peoples who are the architects of nearly 100 human rights instruments postpone space exploration, nuclear tests and the manufacture of nuclear weapons, and divert their resources from these ventures until those instruments really become meaningful?"

Bruce Houlder QC is chairman of the public Offairs committee of the Bar Council



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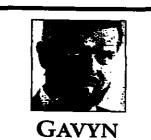


# Bull market creates global imbalances

IT IS NOW taken as axiomatic by many economic commentators that share prices are vastly overvalued, especially in the US, and that this will lead to a major market and economic crash in the next year or two. Without question, this is the most important and difficult topic in the world economy today, so it deserves careful evaluation

The price of equities today is equal to the sum total of future profits, discounted back to the present by a suitable interest rate. A rise in equity prices might therefore signal one of several things - that expected future profits have risen in real terms; that the appropriate real interest rate used for the discounting process has fallen; or that expected future inflation has risen relative to the discount rate, for example.

If either of the first two events are occurring, then it is perfectly appropriate for asset prices today to rise relative to consumer prices, and there is no case for monetary policy to seek to offset this. On the other hand, if the third factor is at work, the increase in equity prices is signalling that expected future inflation has risen, in which case



The risk of mishap would be significantly reduced if Europe would ease

**DAVIES** 

monetary and fiscal policy monetary policy should be tight-

ened today, even if the present-day CPI is well behaved. The rise in equity prices would then be rapid-Which of these three factors is

in fact dominant in present circumstances? According to many pessimists, the third factor is dominant, in which case the equity bull market has been a bubble. If this view is right, then the bubble

should be burst forthwith by the central banks. However, this is not the conclusion reached by Goldman Sachs' equity strategists. According to their calculations, the entire rise in global equity prices in the past five years has been driven by the first two factors – a rise in real profits, and a drop in the real bond yield. They also calculate that the equity risk premium built into the US stockmarket today is around 2.5 to 3 per cent, which is roughly the average level of the risk premium seen in the past 40 years. (The ex post excess return earned on equities relative to bonds has been closer to 6 per cent per annum in the US, but there is evidence to suggest that this ex post excess return has been persistently higher than expected, partly because of unan-

Of course, if the real bond yield is too low at present, then it follows that equity and bond prices might both have trouble sustaining pre-sent levels. The global real bond yield is currently around 2 per cent, which admittedly is much lower than the 3.8 per cent average seen in the past two decades. However, a plausible reason for this decline is that the inflation risk

ticipated declines in interest rates.)

premium built into the bond market has declined in the 1990s for good and sustainable reasons. This inflation risk premium first rose sharply in the late-1970s as a result of a burst of double-digit inflation, and it seems to have taken about two decades to remove the impact of these events from the memory of bond investors. With the world standing on the brink of deflation, it is not surprising that bond investors now deem negative surprises on future inflation as being just as likely as positive surprises, so the "insurance premium" previously built into bond prices has now disappeared. In a sense on this argument, the recent rise in share prices is the mirror image of the prolonged bear market which occurred in the 1970s when the inflation risk premium first appeared

Naturally, it follows from all this that any reversal in the recent declining trend in inflation would probably cause serious problems for equities, since real and nominal bond yields, and the equity risk premium, could all rise simultaneously in such circumstances. At that point, the legion of equity pessimists, who have been so vocal

in the bond market.

ever since 1995, would undoubtedly (if belatedly) be proved right. However, a significant up-tick in underlying inflation does not appear to be a particularly likely eventu-ality in 1999, so that source of trouble for equities does not seem a major risk for this year.

Unfortunately, though, there are other sources of risk to the equity bull market which also need to be analysed. The principal one of these is the financial imbalance at the heart of the US economy. The five-year equity bull market has clearly been the prime force in reducing the American savings ratio to approximately zero in recent months. With net household savings at close to zero, US households have been operating for some time with negative cash flow (ie with a large private sector financial deficit). Essentially, US households have been borrowing money from foreigners, both to sustain their spending at a level about 4 per cent of GDP higher than their income. and to buy more equities.

This is a highly unusual situation, and one fraught with danger since. if the private-sector deficit is corrected suddenly, this could impart a contractionary shock on the world

economy several times larger than the impact of the Asian and Latin American shocks combined. Even if the current valuation of the equity market itself is somewhere close to 'equilibrium" (given where real bond yields are standing), it is hard to describe such a large private sector deficit as an equilibrium phenomenon. It seems that, as real bond yields have fallen, the very rapid rise in equities towards their

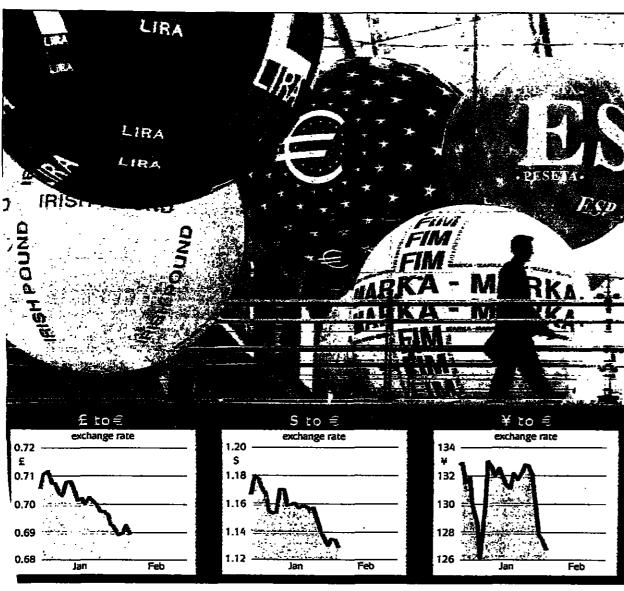
new higher "equilibrium" has tem-porarily boosted consumer spending via a cut in the savings ratio. Since this process has occurred to a much greater extent in the US than elsewhere, the US private sector deficit has been translated into a large American balance of payments deficit. This too is a dangerous development, since it raises the possibility that a shock could be imparted to the US economy via a loss of foreign appetite for American assets. The example of the East Asian shock in 1997 demonstrates that such a development could occur even in the ab-

sence of any rise in US inflation. Is it possible that a soft landing can be generated out of this dangerous situation? Yes, it certainly

is possible. If real bond yields in the

US now stabilise, and equities remain fairly valued relative to bonds, the rate of return on equities in future should fall to the rate which is sustainable in the long term - ie around 7.5 per cent per annum. As consumers come to recognise that equity returns are falling back to normal, they might restore their savings ratio into positive territory, in which case the private sector deficit could correspondingly be gradually eliminated.

While such an out-turn is certainly possible, it will require several things to go right - inflation will need to remain under control, the US balance of payments deficit will need to be successfully financed for a lengthy period, and the US private sector will need to maintain confidence in equity valuations even while they were coming to realise that recent rates of return on equities could not be maintained. On balance, all of these things may continue to occur, in 1999 at least. But the risk of mishap would be significantly reduced if Europe would ease monetary and fiscal policy, allowing the US Federal Reserve to tighten policy if need be without pushing the world



# Why the golden euro has lost its lustre

fGIX weeks ago, it was difpto find anyone who was hh about the euro. Most timerts were confidently aring that investors would snap up the new Euwi currency, with sterling,

ar and even the mighty US eft on the sidelines. euro-euphoria" gathace as the launch of the

currency approached, / ked a rash of headlines that the pound would of bed" the moment ie in the euro began. Ceality has been some-

ferent. The euro has rather than strided for global stage, and has posallen in value against thad's major currencies sho beginning of the year. in tad of last week, the frier down close to 4 per

Ast the dollar, around doult against the pound are r cent against the norr yen. What has gone

ager:rformance of the propist the dollar is easy "Mos- it is simply a questo a tive growth rates. than to amaze with its Wimbine heady eco-

ing to th with low infla-

many latest figures lennil rently enjoying the Th'ce-time expansion comp grew by an annuerdetrier of 1998, well exclueen a "sparkling"

News Analysis: The new European currency is falling far short of

expectations - so what went wrong?

quote Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Re-In the 11 countries of the

euro-zone, the picture is rather different. The tentative recovery seen in many of the European economies last year seems to be grinding to a halt. Germany - Europe's largest economy - is a source of particular concern. Unemployment remains chronically high and the manufacturing sector is on the brink of recession. Not surprisingly, therefore, many currently regard the euro as a less attractive proposition than the dollar.

Michael Lewis, currency analyst at Deutsche Bank, said: "The main effect since the beginning of the year is that people have been looking at growth. The EU has been dogged by high unemployment and tax, and this has been taken negatively."

The relationship between the euro and the pound is more of a puzzle. City dealers say that they want to buy dollars rather than euros because they expect US interest rates to fall. The same dealers also believe that UK rates are more likely to fall than European week if 5.6 per cent in the rates. So logic would seem to imply that the markets should favour euros over pounds. But the euro continues to slip

lar, despite the extremely weak economic fundamentals in Where do we go from here? Analysts emphasise that the economic performance, to against sterling a neat illus-

sult, when traders see the dol-

change rates reflect changes in

expectations. Since the begin-

ning of the year, most UK eco-

nomic data has been stronger

interest-rate changes. On the

Continent, however, growth ex-

pectations have steadily dete-

"The markets didn't really

take on board the fact that

Germany was slowing until

the first week of the year,"

said Jane Foley, currency an-

a story on its own, and reflects

unusual forces at play in the

Japanese markets. Concerns

about chronic over-supply in

the Japanese bond market has

seen bonds prices plummet

and yields soar. Many analysts

believe that the rising yields

will tempt Japanese investors

to repatriate funds from over-

seas. As a result, the yen has

The euro-yen relationship is

alyst at Barclays Capital.

into sterling.

tration of the dangers of structural factors which favour applying simple logic to exa strong euro have not gone away, they have simply been overridden by short-term cyclihange rates. There are at least two explanations for this apparent dical considerations. chotomy. First, the pound has historically moved in line with the dollar because of the sim-

Given the sheer size of the European currencies, the euro seems bound to rival the dolilarity of our trading patterns with those of the US. As a relar as one of the world's major reserve currencies, although this may take far longer than lar going up, they tend to pile some initially thought. "I think we're looking at a

appreciated against all major currencies, including the dol-

five-year horizon or even a Second, movements in exfive-to ten-year horizon," said Ms Foley at Barclays Capital.

Mr Lewis of Deutsche Bank pointed out that countries with than expected, leading many to high savings rates and healthy revise their assumptions about current accounts tend also to have strong currencies. These type of fundamentals suggest that the euro will eventually gain against the dollar, as the US struggles to come to terms with negative savings rates and enormous current account

> It is still early days for the euro. Its performance to date may have been nothing to write home about, but fundamentals suggest that, over the medium term, it will strengthen against the world's major

> And a weak currency is not necessarily bad news for the euro-zone right now. Indeed, it may be just the tonic that some

### **Energy Group** takes price blame

ENERGY GROUP, the US- BY MICHAEL HARRISON owned electricity generator, has been responsible for nearly half the price spikes in the UK electricity pool over the past year, according to figures circulating within the industry.

An analysis of price movements in the pool between last April and the start of this month shows that Energy Group has been responsible in 44 per cent of cases where the price has exceeded £70 a megawatt hour.

Last month the energy regulator, Callum McCarthy, accused the three big coal-fired generators - National Power, PowerGen and Energy Group of rigging the market to maximise prices and their own profits. The day after he made his comments, the system marginal price - the amount that all bidders into the pool receive for their electricity - was the high-

est for that day of the week since the pool began in 1990 and the fourth highest on record for any day. Mr McCarthy, who has said that the price spiking is unfair to customers, has threatened to amend the generators' licences unless they stop "gaming" in the pool for their own commercial advantage.

The leaked industry figures also show that in 34 per cent of cases over the past 10 months, high system marginal prices have been set by a tiny generating plant in Brigg, South Humberside, run by the Finnish company IVO. Both Energy Group and IVO have bid fairly into the pool in line with the pool rules. But critics of the system say IVO's disproportionate influence on prices shows why the pool needs urgent reform.

### IN BRIEF

### Axon set for £100m float

AXON, an information technology consultancy, yesterday said it planned to seek a listing on stock exchange in a placing expected to value the company at £100m. Axon, which recorded profits of £2.5m last year, sells IT solutions to users of SAP R/3, a leading business software system. The flotation is to take place in March.

### Internet fortune for auction founder

APAX, the venture capital group, yesterday announced the largest European venture capital investment in the Internet to date, ploughing \$12m (£7.3m) into QXL, the on-line auction service run by former Independent journalist Tim Jackson. Apax is taking a 30 per cent stake.

### **Engineer opens bid attack**

TT the engineering group, yesterday launched an attack on the management of Hall Engineering as part of a £51.8m hostile bid. In an offer document sent to shareholders today, TT highlighted an expected halving of Hall's profits in the second half of 1998. The company said its 97p-a-share offer represented a 38 per cent premium on Hall's share price before the bid became public on 4 January.

### £50m radio prize for Hunting

HUNTING, the business services group, has won a £50m-ayear contract to supply power management for the British army's new battlefield BOWMAN radios, which are set to enter service in 2002.



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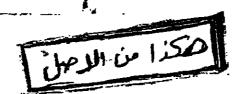
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ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.55pm. 8.25pm The Siege 2.25pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm Very Bad Things 2.15pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705 050007) BR: Romford Enemy of the State 3pm, 8.20pm Little Voice 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.50pm The Mask of Zorro 12.15pm, 5.40pm Meet Joe Black 12.30pm, 4pm, 7.30pm Practical Magic 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 3 30pm Shakespeare In Love 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 9 35pm The Siege 3.45pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm. 6.30pm Stepmom 12.20pm. 3pm. 5.40pm. 8.15pm Very Bad Things 2pm. 4.15pm. 6.35pm. 8.55pm

ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidoup The American President 11.30am, 6pm Little Voice 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 3.45pm Very Bad Things 3.30pm,

STAPLES CORNER VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Cricklewood Enemy of the State 1pm, 3.40pm. 6.25pm, 9.10pm Little Voice 2.30pm. 4.45pm, 7pm Pracvoice 2.3upm. 4.45pm, 7pm Frac-tical Magic 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm Shakespeare In Love 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm The Siege 9.20pm Stepmoorn 1pm, 1.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm Very Bad Things 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm,

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-9020415) BR:
Streatham Hill Antz 5.45pm Meet
Joe Black 2.10pm, 7.35pm Psycho
8.55pm Shakespeare in Love
2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm Star
Trek: Instrrection 2.15pm, 4.30pm,
4.45pm

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill/O Brixton/Clapham Common Bulworth 6.10pm Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 3 25pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3 40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm Practical Magic 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 4.30pm Stepmorn 12.20pm, 3pm, 5 40pm, 8.20pm Very Bad Things

NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR/O-Stratford East Bulworth 6.50pm Practical Magic 2pm. 4.15pm, is 35pm. 9pm Shakespeare in Love 12.55pm, 3.25pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Stepmom 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 3.45pm Very Bad Things 1.30pm,

SURREY QUAYS
UCI (0990 888990) & Surrey
Quays Bulworth 7pm Enemy of the
State 3.30pm, 9.40pm Little Voice 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Meet Joe Black 4.45pm, 8.25pm The Opposite of Sex 4.20pm, 7.10pm, 9.50pm Practical Magic 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Shakespeare in Love 3.10pm, 6pm, 9pm The Siege 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm Stepmom 3 20pm. 6.10pm. 9.10pm Very Bad Things 5pm, 7.20pm. 9.55pm

SUTTON UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR: Sut-10n/O Morden Enemy of the State () 45pm, 9.30pm Little Voice 10pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm The Parent Trap 3.55pm Practical Magic 3.25pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 3.40pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.40pm Stepmom 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9pm Very Bad Things 7.15pm, 9.50pm

TURNPIKE LANE 81-888 2519) furnnike Lane Bulworth 3.45pm, opm, 8.35pm The Siege 3.35pm, opm, 8.30pm Very Bad Things 2.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

ODEON (08705 050007) + Jxbridge Practical Magic 1.50pm. : 05cm. 6.25cm. 8.45cm Stepmom 40pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm

WALTHAMSTOW tow Central Little Voice 1.30pm, 10pm, 6,20pm, 8,30pm Meet Joe Black 2.10pm, 7.20pm Very Bad Things 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.05pm,

WALTON ON THAMES THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-11/2825) BR: Walton on Thames Shakespeare in Love 3.10pm, 45pm, 8,15p Stepmom 2,50pm,

WELL HALL CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: tham Meet Joe Black 3.45pm, և միտու ճնտո, 8 30 թտ

IVILLESDEN BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) A um Meet Joe Black 4.45pm.

WIMBLEDON ODEON (08705 050007) BR 0 Vimbletten, O South Wimbledon Enemy of The State 2.10pm, "John Little Voice 2.05pm, 15pm 6.30pm, 8.45pm Meet Ioe Black 4 55pm Practical Magic Shakespeare in Love 12.20pm. 10pm, 5-35pm, 8.25pm

WOODFORD ABC (018)-989 3463) South Weddood Little Voice 2,10pm, 20hm, 6 30pm, 8 40pm Shake-peare in Love 2 40pm, 5 30pm, 10pm Very Bad Things 1,55pm, 10pm, 6,15pm, 8 30pm

WOOLWICH CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR Configured Arsenal Little Voice

Magte 4pm, 6 15pm, 8 40pm WOOD GREEN NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) €

. rm. 8 45pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai

CINEMA REPERTORY

CINE LUMIERE Queensborry Place. SW7 (017) -838 2144, 2146) Classe de Neige (Class Trip) (NC) 4 30pm GOETHE INSTITUTE Princes Gate. ? (0171-411 3400) A Primer for Frna Cafe Muller: Pina Bausch on

LONDÓN

Film (NC) 7.30pm + Cafe Muller ICA The Mall. SW1 (0171-930) 1007) Puta Miseria (NC) 5pm. 9pm La Rubia del Bar (NC) 7pm The Polygraph (NC) 8 30pm

THE LUX CINEMA Hoxton Square, N1 (0171-684 0201) The Five d Fingers of Dr T (U) 9pm

NFT South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 3232) Elizabeth (15) 2.30pm, 8.30pm I Only Want You to Love Me (NC) 6.10pm The Element of Crime (18) 6.15pm It's a Gift (NC) 7.30pm Effl Briest (18) 8.20pm

PHOENIX High Road, N2 (0181-444

6789) Little Voice (15) 2.15pm. 6.45pm π (Pi) (15) 4.30pm. 9pm PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place, WC2 (0171-437 8181) The Boys (18) 1.30pm The Big Lebowski (18) 3.30pm Boogie Nights (18) 6.10pm The Last Days of Disco

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road, W6 (0171-420 0100) Orlando (PG) 6.45pm + Elizabeth 8.40pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford, Niddlesex (0181-568 1176) Kundun (12) 1.30pm, 4.30pm On Connait Ia Chanson (PG) 7pm My Name is Joe (15)

BRIGHTON BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-602503)
Two Girls and a Guy (18) 2.30pm,
6.45pm The Opposite of Sex (18)
4.30pm, 8.45pm

BRISTOL CUBE (0114-907 4191) Year of the Horse (15) 8.30pm WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) Fire (15) 6pm π (Pi) (15) 6.05pm. 8.40pm Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (18) 8.30pm

CAMBRIDGE ARTS (01223-504444) The Oppo-site of Sex (18) 1.15pm, 9.30pm π (Pl) (15) 3.30pm, 7.30pm Insti-

CARDIFF
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222399666) Bulworth (18) 2.30pm,
7.30pm Little Voice (15) 6.15pm
Flame (12) 8.15pm

NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-786650) Little Voice (15) 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 9pm Victory (15) 6.45pm

NORWICH CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) A Soldler's Daughter Never Cries (15) 2.30pm, 8.15pm Rien Ne Va Plus (15) 5.45pm

> **CINEMA** COUNTRYWIDE

BATH ABC (01225-461730): Shake: in Love (15) LITTLE THEATRE (01225-466822): Babe: Pig in the City (U): Bulworth (18): Little Voice (15): The Mask

ROBINS (01225-461506); Practical Magic (12): Stepmom (12): The Swan Princess (U): Two Girls and a Guy (18)

CAMBRIDGE WARNER VILLAGE (01223-460442): Antz (PG): Babe: Pig in the City (U): Bulworth (18): Ene-my of the State (15): Little Voice (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Mee (15): The Mask of Zorro (PG); Meet Joe Black (12): The Parent Trap (PG): Practical Magic (12): The Prince of Egypt (U); Rush Hour (15): Shakespeare in Love (15): Small Soldiers (PG): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): Stepmom (12); Mere Rad Things (18) Very Bad Things (18)

COLCHESTER ODEON (08705-050007); Antz (PG); Dr Dolittle (PG); Enemy of the State (15): The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) (18): Lit-(PG): Meet Joe Black (12): Mulan (U): The Parent Trap (PG): Practical Magic (12): The Prince of Egypt (U): Psycho (15): Rush Hour (15): Shakespeare in Love (15): Small Soldiers (PG): Star Trek: in

SILVER SCREEN (01304-228000): Babe: Pig in the City (U); The Prince of Egypt (U); The Siege (15)

HEREFORD ABC(01432-272554): Little Voice [15]; Star Trek: Insurrection (PG) THE COURTYARD (01432-359252):

IPSWICH IRGIN (0870-9070748); Antz (PG): Babe: Pig in the City (U); Enemy of the State (15); Uttle Voice (15); The (12); The Parent Trap (PG); Practi (12); The Parent, map it and a cal Magic (12): The Prince of Egypt (U): Shakespeare in Love (15): The Siege (15): The Soldier (Asian Film) (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): mom (12): Very Bad Things (18)
Framed Roger Rabbit? (PG)

MAIDSTONE ABC (0870-9020405), Little Voice (15): Meet Joe Black (12), The Par Trap (PG). The Prince of Egypt (U). Shakespeare in Love (15)

**ODEON LOCHMEADOW** (08705-050007): Antz (PG), Dr Dolittle (PG), Enemy of the State (15): Lit-tle Voice (15). The Mask of Zorro (PG): Meet Joe Black (12): Mulai (U): Practical Magic (12): The Prince of Egypt (U): Shakespeare in Love (15): Small Soldlers (PG): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): Step Very Bad Things (18)

ABC GEORGE STREET (0541-550501). Enemy of the State (15): Meet Joe Black (12). Mulan (13): Need Diack [12]: Mutati (U): The Parent Trap [PG]: Practi-cal Magic (12): The Prince of Egypt (U). Star Trek: Insurrection (PGI: Very Bad Things (18)

ABC MAGDALEN STREET (0541-in Love (15)

PHOENIX PICTURE HOUSE (01865-554909): The Blue Kite (15): Bul-worth (18). Cyclo (18): Double ity (PG). Eraserhead (18): Hana-Bi (13); = (Pi) (15); Por (15), Primary Colors (15): The Se cret Garden (U). Sitcom (18): Snake

Eyes (15); A World Apart (15) ULTIMATE PICTURE PALACE (01865-24528S): The Charge of the Light Brigade (NC), The Exorus II - the Heretic (18): Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18): My Name is Joe (151: The Truman

SALISBURY ODEON (08705-050007). Enemy of the State (15): Little Voice (15) The Mask of Zorro (PG): Meet Joe Black (12); Mulan (U); The Parent Trap (PG): Practical Magic (12): The Prince of Egypt (U): Shakespeare in Love (15): Small Soldiers (PG): Stepmom (†2)

### THEATRE

Ticket availability details are for today; times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. 
— Seats at all prices D — Seats at some prices O — Returns only Matiness — [1]: Sun. [3]; Tue. [4]: Wed. [5]: Thur. [6]: Fri. [7]: Sat

) ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Fe-licity Kendal and Josse Lawrence. Gleigud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £19.50-£27.50 £12.50-£17.50 (restricted views). 130 mlns.

 AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's ac-claimed drama. Old Vic The Cut. SE1 (0171-928 7616/cc 420 0000) BR/<del>©</del> Waterioo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 2.30pm. E7.50-E30. 180

DANNIE Rags to riches story of the optimistic orphan. Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/\to Victoria Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, [1] 4pm, £7.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

ART Tom Mannion, Danny Webb, Gary Olsen in Yasmina Reza's com-edy about art and friendship. Wyn-dham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 867 1111) & Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm, [4] 3pm. [7][1] 5pm, £9.50-£27.50. 90 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road. W1 (0171-656 1888) & Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [5][7] 2.30pm, £18.50-£35. 150 mins.

**BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Rus**sell's long-running Liverpool musi-cal melodrama. Phoents Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) ⊕ Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5] 3pm. [7] 4pm, £11.50-£32.50. 165 mins.

● BUDDY Musical biog-show trac-ing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) ● Covent Garden/Charing X. Tue-Thur 8pm. Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm, £10-£27, half price Friday matiness 160 mins.

DCATS Lloyd Webber's musical verscals Loyu weader's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 404 4079) ← Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3pm, £12.50-£35. 165 mins. CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this hit Broad-

way musical. Adelphi Maiden Lane. WC2 (0171-344 0055) & Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm. [4][7] 3pm, £16-£36 (inc booking fee). 130 mins. **THE COMPLETE WORKS OF** 

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABREDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-forward through 37 plays. Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) & Picc Circ. Wed-Sat 8pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 5pm, [1] 4pm, £6-£25, Thur mats - all seats £10. 120 mins.

OR DOLITTLE Phillip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Hen-son Puppets. London Apollo Ham-mersmith Queen Caroline Street, W6 9 (0171-416 6022) & Hammersmith. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. 150 mins.

FILUMENA Judi Dench and Michael Pennington star in Timber-lake Wertenbaker's new translation of Eduardo de Filippo's play. Pic-cadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) ⊕ Picc Circ. In rep, today 3pm & 8pm, ends Feb 27, £12-£30.

THE GLORY OF LIVING Drama set amongst the trailer parks of southern America from new playwright Rebecca Gilman. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Amba West Street, WCZ (0171-565 5000) Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, £10, concs

• GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film. Cambridge Earlham Street. WC2 (0171-494 5080) • n. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 3pm, £10-£30, 150 mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christopher Cazenove and Susannah York in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy. Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£29.50, 165

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed produc-tion of JB Priestley's thriller Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) ⊕ Leic Sg. Mon-Fri 7,45pm, Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 5pm. £12-£29.50. 110 mins.

) INTO THE WOODS Sondheim and Lapine's acclaimed musical based on fairytales. Donmar Warehouse Earlham Street, WC2 (017) -369 1732) O Covent Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 2.30pm. £15-£27.50.

**THE INVENTION OF LOVE Tom** Stoppard's play about the life of po-et A E Houseman, author of The et A E. Houseman, autoor of the Shropshire Lad. Theatre Royal, Haymarket Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) & Picc Circ. Tue-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-532 50

. JESUS, MV ECY Tom Contistars in John Dowie's alternative Christ-mas show. Apollo Shaftesbury Av-enue. W1 (0171-494 5070) & Picc Circ. Tue-Fri 8pm. Sat 5pm & 8pm. [1] 3pm, ends 6 Feb. £5.50-£18.50.

I LITTLE MALCOLM AND HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EUNUCHS Evan McGregor stars as the revolutionary activist in David Halliwell's drama. Comedy Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) & |5||7| 3pm. ends 13 Mar, £7-\$27.50.

LORD OF THE FLIES Stage version of William Golding's classic tale of schoolboys living on a deserted island. Lyric Hammersmith King Street. W6 (0181-741 2311) • Hammersmith, Mon-Sat 7,30pm, ends 6 Feb. £5-£16.

THE MEMORY OF WATER Alison Steadman and Julia Sawalha star in this touching comedy about three sisters returning home for their mother's funeral. Vaudeville Strand. WC2 (0171-836 9987) BR/ Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, (5)[7] 3pm, 28-£27.50

) LES MISERABLES Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's maserpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue. W1 (0171-434 0909) ♦ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £7-£35, 195 mins.

 MMSS SAIGON Musical which resets the Modom Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £5.75-£35.

) OKLAHOMA! Maureen Lipman stars in the National's acclaimed prostars in the National Saccasine pro-duction of Rodgers and Hammer-stein's cowboy versus farmhand musical Lyceum Weilington Street, WC2 (0870-606 3446/cc 606 6446) Onaring X/Embankment. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, ends 26 June. £10-£35.

3pm, £10-£35, 150 mins.

▶ RENT Musical inspired by La Bo-heme and set in modern day New York Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (07000-211221) & Hobom/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50. 160

> RICHARD III Robert Lindsay stars as the historical villain. Savoy Strand. WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 836 0479) Oharing X/Embankment. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [7] 2.30pm, £10-£27.50.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE CLIVIER: Peter Pan Stephen Offver's music accompanies the tale of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up. with Michael Bryant as the Story-teller. In rep. tonight 7.15pm, ends

b LYTTELTON: The Forest Alan Ay-ckbourn's new version of Ostrovsky's black social satire stars Frances de la Tour. In rep, tonight 7.30pm.

NT2000: The Widowing Of Mrs lolroyd John Burgess directs re-earsed readings of DH Lawrence's domestic drama. Tonight 6pm.

Darke's drama from Kneehigh Th

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY In rep. tonight 7.15pm.

(0171-928 6363) € /BR: Waterloo.

Bee Gees, high-energy dance rou-tines and starring Adam Garcia London Palladium Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) & Oxford Circus. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50, 135 mins. • STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew

Wilton Road, SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/O Victoria, Mon-Sat 7,45pm. [3][7] 3pm, £12.50-£30, 150 mins. THE STREET OF CROCODILES Bruno Scultz's short stories o

the inspiration for Theatre de Complicite's acclaimed and absurdist ama. Queen's Shaftesbury A W1 (0171-494 5040/cc 344 4444) O Picc Circ. Tue-Sat 8pm. [7] 3pm. [1] 5pm, ends 20 Feb. £6-£25.

w stage version of Maxim Gorky's ale of a matriarch and her down-trodden family. Albery St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730) ⊕ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [5][7] 3pm, ends 27 Mar. £5-£29.50.

THE WEIR Conor McPherson's drama is set in Ireland and exami ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 [0171-565 5000] ← Leic Sq/Char-ing X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3.30pm, £5-£25, 90 mins.

 WEST SIDE STORY Brand new production of Bernstein's cl musical, attempting to recreate the feel of the original Broadway hit. es Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5972) ← Leic Sq/Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5][7] 3pm. £18.50-£35, 160 mins.

OWNISTLE DOWN THE WIND Lloyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name about two children who mistake an escaped convict for Jesus. Aldwych Ald-wych, WC2 (0171-416 6000/cc rm. [5][7] 3pm, £10-£32.50.

■ THE WOMAN IN BLACK Stage adaptation of Susan Hill's chillingly effective ghost story. Fortune Rus-sell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238) Ovent Garden/Holborn, Mori-Sat

### THEATRE BEYOND THE WEST END

ALMEIDA THEATRE Certain V Men Peter Gill's com temporary manners looks at the sexuality and the modern man. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat Sat 3pm, ends 20 Feb. E9 50-F19 50, concs available. Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359) 4404) 🗢 Highbury & Islington

ARTS THEATRE Krapp's Last Tape Edward Petherbridge performs Samuel Beckett's melancholic piece. Mon-Sat Bpm, mats Fri & Sa 5.30pm, ends 6 Feb £11-£15 Great Newport Street, WC2 10171-836 3334) Leicester Square.

KING'S HEAD, ISLINGTON The

Vagina Monologues Eve Ensler performs her own aclaimed off-Broadway hit. Tue-Sat 8pm, mats Sat & Sun 3.30mm, ends 6 Mar £12-£13. Upper Street. N1 (0171-226 1916) → Angel/Highbury & Islington. TRICYCLE THEATRE The Colour of Justice Dramatisation of the Stephen Lawrence case. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sa

4pm & 8pm, mat Wed 2pm, ends

Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000) ⊕ Kilburn.

6 Feb. £8-£13.50, concs ava

● THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodunait which just keeps on running, St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) ● Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £10-£24.50. 135 mins.

O THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's pop-ular Gothic musical which features some of the composer's catchiest times. HerMajesty's Haymarket, 5W1 (0171-494 5400/cc 344 4444) ⊕ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7]

CHELTENHAM

O COTTESLOE: The Riot Nick Darke's drama from Kneehigh The-atre. In rep, tonight 7.30pm. Olivi-er & Lytteiton: £8-£27. Cottesloe: £12-£18. NT2000: £4, concs £3. Day seats from 10am. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000). 0/BR: Wa-

♦ THE BARBICAN: Measure For Measure Stephen Boxer stars in Shakespeare's examination of justice.

● THE PIT: Bad Weather Robert Holman's examination of the break-down in family relationships. In rep. tonight 7.15pm. Barbican Theatre: E5-E27. The Pit: £11-£18.50. Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891).

D TALK OF THE CITY Stephen Poliakoff's drama explores media control in the early days of Television and radio. Young Vic In rep. tonight 7.15pm. £14-£20. The Cut. SE1 ) SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER ELL

1970s musical featuring legendary songs plus three new tracks by the

Lloyd Webber's revamped hi-tech roller-musical. Apollo Victoria St Johns Alley (01603-620917)

 VASSA Howard Davies directs a Noise Quietly Robert Holman's se-ries of short pieces depicting en-

(01202-685222) THE MILL AT SONNING Two Dozen Red Roses Comic love story set in romantic Rome. Tue-Sat 8.15pm,

ST AUSTELL ST AUSTELL COLLEGE Sell Out

GORDON CRAIG THEATRE On

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON STRATFORD-UPON-AVON ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE The Winter's Tale Scasonal tale of obsessive jeaslousy directed by Gre-gory Doran. Today 1.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 4 Mar. £7-£30

SWAN THEATRE Trollus and Cresstda Shakespeare's depiction of the human spirit undermined by bloody warfare. Today 1.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 20 Feb. £5-£30 Waterside (01789-295623)

SWINDON
WWVERN THEATRE The Complete Works of William Shakespear (Abridged) Reduced Shakespear Company fast-forwards through 37 plays. Today 2pm & 7.30pm. £10-£12, concs available Theatre Square (01793-524481)

PALACE THEATRE Darkness Falls Double bill of sinister drama from Jonathan Holloway. Mon-Thur 7.45pm. Fri & Sat 8pm, ends 20 Feb. £4-£15.75 Clarendon Road (01923-

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA PALACE THEATRE CENTRE Women on the Verge of HRT Two fortysomething women discuss their situation in life. Mon-Sat 8pm. ends 20 Feb. £5.50-£14.50, concs available London Road (01702-342564)

### FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

First Cell TO ACCOMPANY the release of their second album Performance and Cocktails, the Stereophonics (right) are kicking off the spring with a UK tour. Preceding this is the single "Just Looking", which should storm the charts, judging by November's hit, "The Bartender and the Thief". Having won three music awards in 1998, the band's popularity is set to snowball; many venues have already sold out, but the three listed below still have tickets available.

Margate Winter Gardens (01843 292795) 26 Apr., Guild Hall, Phymouth Pavilions (01752 229922) 28 Apr. Brixton Academy, London SW9 (0171-924 9999) 1-2 May

REWORKING HOFFMAN'S junk-opera Strumoelpeter, British directors Phelim McDermott and Julian Crouch have returned to the capital following a successful European tour, a Broadway transfer and negotiations for the film rights. Cultural Industry's production, led by the Tiger Lillies, revels in its gloriously warped vision of the future, and shouldn't be missed by those willing to enjoy such defiance of reason and sanity. Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, London W6 (0181-741. 2311) to 10 Apr .

BRUTON

(01749-812205)

BRUTON GALLERY Forming the Figure Including works by Rodin and Henry Moore. Mon-Fri 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm, ends 20 Mar, free, Stock-well House, Bruton High Street

CAMBRIDGE FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM The Soci-

ety of Three: Whistler, Fantin-La-tour and Alphonse Legros

Exhibition of drawing and prints ex-

amining the common stylistic ground of the three artists. Tue-Sat 10am-

5pm. Sun 2.15pm-5pm, ends 14 Feb. free. Trumpington Street (01223-332900)



### **EXHIBITIONS** THEATRE COUNTRYWIDE

BRIGHTON ERIGHTON
BRIGHTON MUSEUM AND ART THEATRE ROYAL Guards! Guards! Terry Pratchett's novel adapted for BRIGHTON MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY Mary Potter (1900-1981) Retrospective of the artist's largely figurative paintings. Mon. Tue & Thur-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 28 Mar, free. Church Street (01273-290900) the stage. Mon-Thur 7.45pm, Fri & Sat 5pm & 8pm, ends 6 Feb. £7.50-£14.50, concs available Bond Street (01273-328488)

EVERYMAN THEATRE Black Dahila Chilling psychological thriller by the author of LA Confidential. Contains shocking scenes. Tue-Fri 7.45pm, Sat Bpm, ends 6 Feb. E5.50-E15 Regent Street (01242-572573)

CHICHESTER PESTIVAL THEATRE Abigail's Party Steven Pinder (Brookside's Max Farnham) stars in Mike Leigh's comedy about social niceties in 1970s suburbia. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thur & 5at 2.30pm, ends 6 Feb. £6.50-£21. Oaklands Park (01243-781312)

EXETER NORTHCOTT THEATRE Persu Adaptation of Jane Auster's last novel, Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8pm, ends 6 Feb. £7-£15, concs ava Stocker Road (01392-493493)

YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE The Prisoner of Second Avenue Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason star in Neil Simon's comedy about a mid-life crisis. Mon-Thur 7.45pm, Fri-Sat 8pm, mats Thur & Sat, 2.30pm, ends 13 Feb. £10-£21.50, concs available lfbrook (01483-440000)

MALVERN FESTIVAL THEATRE The Gin Game Frith Banbury directs Joss Ackland and Dorothy Tutin in this sensitive and funny drama which centres around a lengthy game of Gin Rummy. Mon-Sat 8pm. mat Sat 2.30pm, ends 6 Feb. £10-£14. concs available Grange Road (01684-

MADDERMARKET THEATRE Woman in Mind One of Ayckbourn's blacker comedies about a woman who suffers delusions after being hit on the head by a garden rake. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, ends 6 Feb. £4-£6.50

Bowles and Michael Maloney star in Anthony Shaffer's ingenious and inventive thriller, Mon-Sat 7.30om. mat Wed 2.30pm, ends 6 Feb. £3-£15.50, concs available Theatre £15.50, concs ava Street (01603-630000) OXEGED PLAYHOUSE THEATRE Making

THEATRE ROYAL Sleuth Peter

counters between strangers in the shadow of war. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, 5 Feb, 8pm, ends 13 Feb. £6-£13 POOLE ARTS CENTRE And Then There Were None Agatha Christie's whodunnit set in a lonely house on a remote island. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. mat Wed 2.30pm, ends 6 Feb. £7.50-£11.50 Kingland Road

mat Sat 2.15pm, ends 20 Feb. E21.95-E32.95 incl dinner. Son-

ning Eye (0118-969 8000) Frantic Assembly's multi-media per-tormance. Tonight 8pm. E6, concs £4 Trevarthian Road (01726-68532)

the Razzle Tom Stoppard's farce is set in 1850's Vienns, Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8pm, mat Thur 1.30pm, ends 5 Feb. £10.50-£12.50, concs avallable

OXEGRD

Nineteenth Century French Draw-ings Recent acquisitions alongside familiar drawings. Ends 28 Feb. The Painterly Brush Oil sketches

Second half of the century.

Cuoit Montserrat: Veronica Ryan
Marble sculpture linking St Ives
with Montserrat in the West Indies. Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am 5pm, ends 11 Apr. £3.50, concs £2. Porthmenr Beach (01736-796226)

WOLVERHAMPTON

8891) O Moorgate/Barbkan. QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL The King's Consort/Ming Handel's set-ting of Milton, L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato. Tonight 7.45pm. £8-£20. South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-

SOUTHAMPTON TURNER SIMS CONCERT HALL, SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY Viadimir Ashkenazy The virtuoso in a rare solo recital. Tonight 8pm. E20, concs £18. University Road (01703-595151)

**OPERA** 

CARDIFF FFOTOGALLERY Josef Koudel Photographic images in a major ex-hibition spread across four galleries. Tue-Sat 10am-5.30pm, ends 14 Feb. free, Charles Street (01222-341667)

Sculpture and paintings. Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Set 10am-1pm, ends 11 Mar, free. Dering Street. WI (0171-499 4100) → Bond Street. BARBICAN ART GALLERY Africa by Africa: A Photographic View More than 200 images from sub-Sarahan Africa. PICASSO AND PHOTOGRAPHY:

ANTHONY D'OFFAY Andy Warhol

THE DARK MURROR More than 300 works explore the Spanish master's relationship with photography, Mon. Thur-Sat 10am-6.45pm, Tue 10am-10am-5.45pm, tipe 10am-5.45pm, Wed 10am-7.45pm, Sun 12noon-6.45pm, ends 29 Mar. £6, concs £4, from Mon-Fri £3 after 5pm. Silk Street. EC2 (0171-638 4141) Garbican/Moorgate. DESIGN MUSEUM Modern Britain 1927-1939 A study on the important period after the Great War including the work of Francis Bacon, Paul

£5.25, concs £4 (to museum). Shad Thames, SE1 (0171-378 6055) ↔ Tower Hill/DLR: Tower Gateway. NATIONAL GALLERY in the Light of Fra Angelico: Zanobi Strozzi Study exhibition exploring the paintings of the 15th-century artist. Ends

Nash and Barbara Hepworth. Mon-

Portraits by Ingres Major exhibition of paintings and drawings by the 19th-century French artist. Mon & Tue. Thur-Sun 10am-6pm, Wed 10am-10pm, ends 25 Apr. £6, concs £4. Wed 7pm-10pm £4. Trafalgar Square, WC2 (0171-747 2885) \varTheta Charing Cross, Leicester Square.

ROVAL ACADEMY OF ARTS Monet

in the 20th Century Eighly painting made in the 26 years after 1900. Mon Thur, Sun 9arn-6pm, Fri & Sat 9arn-10pm, ends 18 Apr. £9, concs £6. child (12-18) £3, child (8-11) £1.50. Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-413 1717) & Green Park. TATE GALLERY Turner in the Aips Works on paper made on Turner's first Alpine trip in 1802. Ends 14 Feb.

in Celebration: The Art of the Country House Paintings and sculpture, including work by Canaletto, Stubbs and Holbein. Mon-Sun 10am-5.50pm, ends 28 Feb. free. Millbank, SW1 (0171-887 VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM Picasso's Ladies: Wendy Ramshaw Precious-metal jewellery. Ends 15 Feb. Elsewhere - Photographs from the Americas and Asia: Henri Cartier-

Americas and Assa: heart carbon Bresson Lesser known subjects by the photographer Ends 12 Apr. Silver and Syrup: A Selection from the Collection Work by leading photographers throughout his-tory. Mon-Sun 10am-5.45pm, ends 31 Jul. £5, concs £3, under 18s/UB40/disabled/mems/after (0171-938 8441) @ South Kens-

ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM Chinese Silks Brightly coloured 18th and 19th century hangings. Ends 28

2pm-4pm, ends 21 Mar, free, Beau mont Street (01865-278000) ST IVES ST IVES TATE GALLERY Displays 1998-9: Partnerships and Practice Paintings and ceramics from the

WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY Disasters of War: Callot, Goya, Dix Selections from three artists' war etchings. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, ends 20 Mar. free, Lichfield Street (01902-

### CLASSICAL

LONDON BARBICAN HALL 1.50/Davis Sarah Chang in Bartok's 2nd Violin Con-certo plus Beethoven's 7th Sympho-ny, Tonight 7.30pm. E6.50-E32. Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638

960 42421 BR/@ Waterloo.

LONDON COLISEUM The Barber of Seville Rossini's enduring com-edy in a revival of ENO's production originally directed by Jonathan Miller Tonight 7.30pm. £5-£55. St. Mar-tin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300)

### DANCE

BRIGHTON
GARDNER ARTS CENTRE Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company: Dou-ble Bill Ground breaking choreographer Jeyasingh presents a programme of new work including the premiere of Fine Frenzy. Tonight 7.45pm. £8-£10, concs available University of Sussex, Lewes Road (01273-685861)

SADLER'S WELLS AT THE PEA-COCK THEATRE Paco Pena Flamenco Presents La Musa Gitana World class flamenco dance, song and guitar. Tue-Sat 8pm, mat Sat, Sun 3pm, ends 7 Mar, £7.50-£27.50. Portugal Street, WC2 (0171-863 8222) → Holborn/Temple

bery Avenue, EC1 (0171-863 8000)

Royal Ballet: Edward II Choreo-graphed by David Bintley. Today

LITERATURE LONDON BIG WORD Bristol's poetry diva, Lucy English, is joined by Tim Wells, Cuban Redd, Birdman and Paul Rafierty. Jem Rolls hosts. Finnegan's Wake Essex Road N1 (0171-226

1483) ⊕ Angel. Tonight 9pm, £4. LATE 19TH CENTURY FRENCH FICTION AND PAUL VALERY Talk and reading given by Professors Paul Gifford and Brian Stimpson, and Dr Nicholas White. Institut Français Queensberry Place 5W7 (0171-838 2 1 4 4 / 2 1 4 6 / cc 0 1 7 1 - 8 3 8

### COMEDY

Tonight 6.30pm, free

2144/2146) O South Kensington.

ADAM BLOOM AT GULBENKIAN THEATRE, UNIVERSITY OF KENT Smart, fast-paced humour plus support Tonight 7.45pm. Giles Land (01227-769075) £8.50. concs £6.50.

THE COMEDY STORE The Best In Stand-Up with San Franciscan com-ic Arj Barker Gordon Southern, king of the surreal one-liners Milton Jones, Jocelyn Jee, plus open spots, MC Simon Bligh. Tonight 8pm. Ox-endon Street, SW1 (01426-914433/cc 0171-344 4444) &

Piccadilly Circus, £12, concs £7 SOUTHAMPTON AL MURRAY THE PUB LAND-LORD - LATE LOCK-IN '99 AT THE GANTRY The triple Perrier naminee pours forth. Tonight Sprn. Blechyden Terrace (01703-229319) £7, concs

### CLUBS

LONDON DUB CLUB AT CLUB PHOENIX Reg-gae night with Daddy Ruffneck Soundsystem, Daddy Dub Bug and Mikey Crucial. Tonight 9pm-2am, Seven Sisters Road, N4 (0171-561 0357) 6/BR: Finsbury Park. 25, concs Fd. £3 50 before 10 nm. concs £4, £3.50 before 10pm.

sential's Kei spins new school Euro house to cocktail-drinking punters. Tonight 9pm-3am, Wardour Street, W1 (0171-287 1220) & Leicester Square, £3, concs £2. IT'S A LONDON THING AT OP-TIONS Garage night with top scene

DJs. Tonight 10pm-late, £5, concs

£3. Clarence Street, Kingston, Sur-

rev (0181-547 2848)

NOCTURNA AT INSOMNIA Sundis-

### **EVENTS**

BRIGHTON ZOO: AN EXHIBITION OF FAN-TASTIC AND CRAFTY CREATURES Weird and wonderful creatures de-picted by craft makers and designers. Hove Museum & Art Gallery New Church Road (01273-290200) Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm. closed Good Friday, ends 18 Apr.

LONDON LITERACY IN FOCUS Book exhibi-LITERACY IN FOCUS Book exhibi-tion with a full programme of semi-nars, showcasing the books and materials to support schools litera-cy programmes. Olympia 2 Ham-mersmith Road W14 [0171-385 1200] & Earls Court/Olympia. 10am-son ends 5 Feb. tree

5pm, ends 5 Feb. free. CIRCUS OF HORRORS Adult rock circus from Archaus' Pierrot Bidon with death-defying stunts involving chainsaws and tightrope motorbikes. Roundhouse Chalk Farm Road NW1 (0171-420 0000/cc 0171 482 1011) O Chalk Farm. Tue-Sat 8pm, £10

PORTSMOUTH PORTSMOUTH SEA LIFE CEN-TRE More than 30 fascinating marine life displays plus the UK's first sanc-tuary for tropical fish which have outgrown their tanks, Portsmouth Sea Life Centre Clarence Esplanade (01705-875222) Mon-Sun 10am 5pm, £5.50, cones £4.25, child £3.95, under 4s free.

### **MUSIC**

BANBURY THE HAMSTERS Southend's Hendrix-inspired blues-rockers, Mill Arts Centre Spiceball Park (01295-279002) Tonight 7.45pm, phone for

LANDSPEED LOUNGERS, SCARA-MANGA Yorkshire indie guitar dou-ble-bill. Stars & Stripes Western Road (01273-293340) Tonight 8pm. CARDIFF

COMEDY, THE SUPERNATURALS

Major tour for the remvented ener-

graphed by David Bintley. Today 2pm & 7.30pm. £7.50-£40. Rosetainer's Tom Jones stage-show and ironic Bond-isms, Cardiff International Arena Mary Ann Street, Butetown (01222-224488) Tonight 7.30pm, £18.50. CHE! MSEORD MIDGET Gritty indie-guitar pop out-

> Hotel Parkway (01245-262424) Tonight 8.30pm, phone for prices. **ROOTJOOSE** West Country rockers in the surfer-friendly vein. Cavern Club Queen Street (01392-495370)

Tonight 8pm. phone for prices.

fit with a new single, "Artwork", out

MADDER ROSE, DARK STAR Intelligent. Velvets-tinged. US alt rock outfit. The Garage Highbury Corner N5 (0171-607 1818/cc 0171-344 0044) BR/O Highbury & Islington. Tonight 8pm, £7.50. PHILIP WELLS AND STANLEY ADLER Unique collaboration be-tween one of the UK's leading per-formance poets and remarkable formance poets and remarkable Bach-to-Hendrix cellist Stanley Adler.

The Old Operating Theatre Mu-seum & Herb Garret St Thomas Street SE1 (0171-955 4791) BR/O London Bridge. Tonight 7.30pm. £5, concs £3. TERRORVISION Return to live ac-tion by Bradford's finest purveyors of twisted pop metal. Brookes Uni-

Road, Headington (01865-484764 MUSIC

JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

versity Students Union London

DAVE O'HIGGINS QUARTET Well rounded contemporary tenor sax-man. The Watermill Reigate Road (01306-887831) Tonight 3.30pm,

EDDIE HENDERSON QUARTET Fast and fluid US trumpeter. Pizza Express Jazz Qub Dean Street Wi (0171-439 8722) O Tottenham Court Road, Tonight 9pm, £15. THREE'S A CROWD Actorly cabaret with Patricia Hodge. Pizza on the Park Knightsbridge SW1 (0171-235

neobop pianist. Ronnie Scott's Frith Street W1 (0171-439 0747) € Leicester Square. Tonight 9.30pm, £15. mems £4 (Mon-Thu); £20, CLAIRE MARTIN/JIM MULLEN AC-

5273) O Hyde Park Corner, Tonight 9.15pm & 11.15pm, £20, £18 adv

CEDAR WALTON Veteran Texan

complished vocal-guitar partnership. Vortex Stoke Newington Church Street N16 (0171-254 6516) BR: Stoke Newington, Tonight 9pm.

RADIO 1

(97.6-99.8MHz FM )

### Hang fire on euro

Sir Donald Macintyre a comment. I belonging areas that the Charpedler and the Prime Menister shang "ratched ato" their commitment to the current Mate the Constitution of the information to hier. Mr Macanters and other tommentations feel it is necessity for the Constitution to go beyond the pulicy on which a was elected which was further clarified by Cantekni Bremen with the tive coursement for spiciol child. Life hoped. ternams both plantable and robust

The last year has seen global Manual erres, and there are under about they may not be interval The curves only one mouth old, and while many of us sire exquisions that it will be a success and therewe my totally trives. Lam not conveneed that it would be wise or in the interests of the I K economy templicate that Re should make a traily loon of give a date for joining

The curo has no track record in amagaze at this stage that we should pure before the date for a referentian has been set or enes date for joining would be folly.

What we need is an informed debate, with these of as who are almost certain to be in the "yes" could arithmic the case for the caro and taking a to the country, not to the Prime Minister or the Chancellor

The public must make up as own mind eventually at a referendem In the meantime numsters can prepare, and need only make a decision once the economic lesis linia lacen satistical

There is curroutly among my non-UK Socialist college, assisting in Brussels about the possible timing of UK entry but I don't threet the impatience in a poem both the europhile and curoscepte pressanthe UK. MARK HENDRICK MED diagonships to outside it is Spenistration to mode Monetary Affairs for the Anniamana matter of britan OF A SECTION ASSESSMENT

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### Going to earth

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· 安全的 2000年 ANGLIA والمتعارض المستعموه News and Weather (530)623). 6.00 An-glia News (723). 6.30 About Anglia (425). 10-30 Anglia News and Weather (423). 10-30 Angla News and Weather (596433). 12:10 Tales from the Darkside

Lewsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce 8.00 Steve Lamecq - the Evening Session. 10.00 Trade Update. 10.10 John Peel. 12.00 Andy Kershaw. 2.00 Emma B. 4.00 Clive Warren. RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM) 6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Wake Up to

6.30 Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo.

12.00 Kevin Greening 2.00 Mark

Radoliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45

Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young, 2.00 Ed Stewart, 5.05 Johnnie Walker, 7.00 A Night in Memphis. See Pick of the Day. 7.03 Memphis' Greatest Hits. 7.30 Elvis in Memphis. 8.00 Wendy Moten in Concert. 8.20 B B King on Beale Street. 9.00 Preston Shannon in Concert. 9.20 Boppin the Blues the Story of Sun Records. 10.00 Jerry Lee Lewis in Concert. 10.30 Richard Allinson. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.0 - 4.0 Mo Dutta.

RADIO 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM ) **6.00** On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Artist of the Week TLOO Sound Stories.

12.00 Composer of the Week: Liszt, 1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 4.00 Ensemble. 4.45 Music Machine. **5.00** In Tune.

7.30 Performance on 3. Conductor Stephen Cleobury, Thomas Trotter (organ). A concert of music by 20thcentury English and Welsh composers given last September in St Asaph Cathedral, Mathias: Toccata ciocosa, for organ; A May Magnificat. Howells: Master Tallis's Lament. for organ. Tippett: Five Spirituals (A Child of Our Time). Lewis: A Herefordshire Carol Britten: Sacred and Profane. Hoddinott: Hymnus ante somnum. Elgar: Organ Sonata No 1 (1st mvt). Parry: Lord, let me know mine end (Songs of Farewell). Mathias: An Admonition to Rulers. 9.30 Postscript. Patrick Wright talks to five unsung, witty and engaging figures on the cultural scene who are

distinguished by their originality and hish playwright David Rudkin's

SKY PREMIER

imagination. 3: David Rudkin. Anglotreen credits include Testimony and 'The Woodlanders'; on stage,

6.00 Merin's Shop of Mystical Wonders (1995) (57365). 8.00 Old Man (1997)

(37100). **10.00** To Gillian on Her S7th Birthday (1996) (36452). **12.00** The Direc-

(60433). 4.00 Old Man (1997) (38372549).

5.45 To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday (1996) (61585100). 7.30 Tracey Takes On...

(5181). 8.00 Hoffywood Buzz (8162). 8.30

The Spitfire Grill (1996) (21162). See Pick

(1996) (120853). 4.05 - 6.00 Blood Diner

7,07 ... ace the Sun (1995) (23549). 9.00

Face the Sun (1985) (96988), 1.00 The

Last Best Year (1990) (98636). **5.00** Pec-Wee's Big Adventure (1985) (15471). **7.00** 

Vegas Vacation (1997) (10029). **9.00** 

Sleepwalker (1996) (86471). 11.00 Twin Town (1997) (542013). 12.40 Hostages

(1997) (374785), 2.20 Bang (1994) (921874). 4.00 Temptress (1995) (631230), 5.35

750 The Last Best Year (1990) (15274308).

4.00 Unfaithfully Yours (1948) (7966029).

6.00 Father Brown (1954) (1255549).

(1250094). 10.00 Days of Wine and Ros-

es (1963) (9219907). 12.00 The French

Connection (1971) (9774872). 1.45 Outliet (1979) (4892330). 3.45 The Pink Jungle

(8648346), **8.00** Living in Oblivion (1995)

643891), 10.00 Don't Look Now (1973)

(8922181). **11.50** Night of the Eagle (1962)

(4007487). 1.20 Le Cercle Rouge (1970) (77363853). 3.50 - 6.00 Raise the Red

100 Rex Hunt (3786297). 4.30 Walker's Lorid (3775181). 5.00 Wheel Nuts (4832655). 5.30 Turning Points (3766433).

6.00 Animal Doctor (3763346). 6.30 Ad-

ventures of the Quest (8591094). 7.30 Be-

tagazine (6475549). 9.00 Breaking the

Anxiety (8481100), 11.00 Forensic Detec-

yond 2000 (3776810). 8.00 Discover

Sound Barrier (6488013), 10.00 High

tives (9963636), 12.00 Ocean Cities

8.00 The Paim Beach Story (1942)

(1968) (2497018), 5.25 Close.

Lantern (1991) (44512691).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

6.00 A Room with a View (1985)

2 year voice (1997) (99094). 11.00 Pee

of the Day. 10.30 Con Air (1997) (57901029). 12.25 Last Dance (1996)

(990899). 2.10 Crime of the Century

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tors (46839). 1.00 Fernmes Fata

fins Shoo of Mystical Wonders (1995)

### PICK OF THE DAY

a-half hours of airtime to the there are a clutch of concerts, Temmessee city associated with culminating in a set from Jerry the emergence of rock 'n' roll Lee Lewis. and blues, A Night in Memphis (7pm R2) is by no means debate, Night Waves (10.45pm overblown. The quiffed quipper R3), Paul Allen taiks to the Mark Lamarr presents two features, on Elvis Presley (right) and Sun Records, while Paul Jones gets a genial interview with BB King, for whom Memphis

'Afore Night Come'; and on radio,

The Lovesong of Alfred J Hitch-

DEVOTING A whole three-and- is "still the place". In between,

THURSDAY RADIO

In that haven for worthwhile poet Paul Durcan about his new collection The Mary Robinson Years, and assesses the work of August Strindberg. DOMINIC CAVENDISH



of personally challenging drama. 9.30 BBC Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Ondrej Kukal. Martinu: The Parables. 10.00 Music Restored Lucie Skeaping introduces a selection of music connecting England and France, including music by Robert Morton and Gilles Binchois sung by the Orlando Consort, and chamber music by Charles Dieupart played by Claire Guimond (flute), John Toll (harpsichord) and Charles Mediam (viola

da camba). 10.45 Night Waves. Paul Allen talks to Irish poet Paul Durcan, whose ambitious new collection, 'The Mary Robinson Years', attempts to chart both his own interior life and the spirit of his country through the water-shed years of Mary Robinson's presidency. Plus first-night news from the world premiere of Paco Pena's Andalucian dance drama La musa. gitana'. And the troubled life of August Strindberg: Paul Allen explores current interpretations of his work, as Radio 3 marks the sesquicentenary of Strindberg's birth with a produc-tion of 'The Father', which is broadcast on Sunday. See Pick of the Day. 11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Composer of the Week:

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night. RADIO 4 (92.4-94.6MHz FM ) 6.00 Today. 9.00 NEWS; Melvyn Bragg - In Our

9.30 Transplantations. (R) 9.45 Serial: Best American Essays. cock'. He talks about the importance 10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour. 11.00 NEWS: From Our Own Corre-#L30 Old Dog and the Partridge.

12.00 NEWS; You and Yours. 12.57 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 130 Open Country. 2.00 NEWS; The Archers. 215 Afternoon Play: Only a Matter of Time.

3.00 NEWS: Call You and Yours: 0870 010 0444 3.30 The Speech Makers. 3.45 This Sceptred Isle. 4.00 NEWS; Law in Action. 4.30 The Material World. 5.00 PM

5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 Yes, Minister. (R) 7.00 NEWS; The Archers. 715 Front Row. Francine Stock chairs the arts programme, including the verdict on a new exhibition of paintings by Patrick Caufield, and a report from France as Asterix leaps

from the comic book into a live-ac-

tion film 7.45 Speaking for Themselves. Ten dramatised excerpts from the letters of Britain's great wartime leader and his wife Clementine, taken from the newly published collection edited by their daughter, Mary Soames. With Alex Jennings as Winston, Sylvestra le Touzei as Clementine, and Helen Bourne as the narrator. Part 4. 8.00 NEWS; The Volcano That Changed the World. Simon Calder

to explore the mystery behind one of the largest volcanic eruptions in the history of mankind. 8.30 The Week in Westminster. Mary Ann Sieghart of 'The Times'

takes a look behind the scenes at 9.00 NEWS; Testbeds, Vanessa Collingridge explores the technologies that shape our lives. 9.30 Melvyn Bragg - In Our Time. Melvyn Bragg and guest discuss ideas and events which have influ-

enced our time. 10.00 NEWS; The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: the Sound of Trumpets. By John Montmer. Will Terry Flitton become Labour MP for Hartscombe and Worsfield South? Will his affair with Acnes Simcox be exposed? All this and much more is

ravealed in this penultimate episode. Read by Rik Mayall. 11.00 NEWS; The Way it is. 11.30 A Good Read. (R) 12.00 News. 12.30 Late Book: Lemona's Tale.

12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today. **RADIO 4 LW** (198kHz)

9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. travels to the Aegean island of Thera 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament. **RADIO 5 LIVE** (693, 909kHz MW ) 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News. 100 Ruscoe and Co. **4,00** Drive. 7.00 News Extra.

7.30 The Hardest Game. Continuing the series in which former BBC boxing correspondent Harry Carpenter reflects on the sport from the 1950s to the present day. 8.00 Inside Edge. This week, Rob Bonnet reports from Lausanne in

Switzerland, where the International Olympic Committee is holding a special conference on drugs in sport. 9.00 Hoops, Fat Freddy M rounds up the latest news from the British basketball scene. Football legend lan Wright adds his views on the NBA. 9-30 Sportshop, Trixie Rawlinson presents the sports consumer programme, including sporting investigations and news of all the latest

sporting gadgets. 10.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson, Incl 1030 Sport, 1100 News. 11.15 Financial World Tonight. 100 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM (1000-1019MHz FM ) 6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Crick, 6.30 Newsnight, 7.00 Classics at Seven, 9.00 Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 1058MHz FM ) 6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Mark Forrest, 1.00 Nick Abbot, 4.00 Harriet Scott, 7.30 Pete & Geoff, 10.00 James Merritt. 1.00 Steve Power. 4.30 - 6.30 Richard Allan.

**WORLD SERVICE RADIO** (198kHz LW) 1.00 World Today. 1.30 Westway. 1.45 Performance 2.00 World Today. 2.30 Focus on Faith. 3.00 The World Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup. 3.30 Business. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 7.00 The World Today (4.00-7.00).

TALK RADIO 6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks & Nick Ferrari. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 1.00 Anna Raeburn. 3.00 Peter Deeley. 5.00 SportZone. 7.00 One to One. 8.00 James Whale.

12-00 - 6.00 lan Collins.

### INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

### CHESS

THE MATCH between Michael Adams and Yasser Seirawan in Bermuda ended on Monday in a five-all draw after a gritty contest. I had imagined - and I think it was generally believed - that Adams. outgrading his opponent by nearly 75 points, and far from inexperienced in match play, would run out the easy winner. This view was reinforced when in the first game Seirawan, as White, blundered in a winning position and lost.

The American fought back, however, with wins as Black in games 4 and 6, the former after a fairly bad blunder by Adams and the latter after a howler in time trouble, the like of which I've seldom if ever seen Michael commit before.

After today's splendid draw in game 7, Adams equalised in a satisfyingly bloody struggle and, when Seirawan failed to gain advantage in his final White. Adams had a chance to pip him in his last White. As in all his other Blacks, Seirawan in game 10 stuck to his guns in the Caro Kann (1 e4 c6) but Adams got some pressure in which resolved itself into an endgame where he had the advantage of the two bishops and ultimately two lone bishops against knight and two connected pawns. Though proven by a database to be winning. this is tough enough without the

pawns, and Seirawan held on. In this wonderfully messy struggle of game 7, analysed by Yasser in his Inside Chess Online thttp:// www.insidechess. com), he mistakenly allowed a tactical storm with 9 Nc3?. 9 Be3 was much safer. He'd missed 11 ...Bd7!, rather than 11 ...a6 12 Ba4 b5 13 Bb3 Bc5 14 Nxc6 "when I thought I'd advantageously recapture the d5-pawn." 24 Rhf1? g6

14 ... NB+ was a tempting afternative, probably also leading to perpetual. With 15 Kfl Scirawan cleverly offered a draw; when Adams refused it, it had the effect of causing Michael to reject the best line two moves later: 16 ... Rxd5 17 Qxd5 Rd8 18 Qb3 Rd1+ 19 Qxd1 Bxd1 20 fxe5 Qb4 21 Bxc6 Qc4+ 22 Kf2 Qe2+ 23 Kg3 Qg4+ etc.

The endgame after 17 Nxe6 was better for White and the advantage then oscillated between small and highly significant - for instance White shouldn't have allowed 24 ...Nxb2 and 38 ...h5? invited the White king to walk to g5 immediately - before Seirawn, still better but tired out by the heavy struggle, repeated moves at the end.

### White: Yasser Seirawan Black: Michael Adams Pirc Defence

25 Rabi Kb7: 2 e4 Nf6 26 Bd1! Rc8 3 f3 d5 27 BØ Kb8 4 e5 Nfd7 28 Rfd1 Rcds ă [4 c5 29 Bxc6? Rxc6 6 Nf3 Nc6 30 Kd2 Rd3 7 c4 e6 31 Rbd1 Rcd6 8 exd5 exd5 32 b3 Nb4 33 Rxd5 Nxd5 9 Ne3? exd4 10 Nxd4 Ndxe5! 34 KP Rc6 11 Bb5 Bd7! 35 Rd2 Kc7 12 Nxd5 Be5 36 Bd4 Rc1 13 Nb3 Bg4 37 Bb2 Rh1 14 Qd2 Qh4+ 38 KB h5? 15 Kft 0-0-0 39 Be5+: Kd7 16 Nxc5 Be6? 40 Re2" a5! 17 Nxe6 fxe6 41 Rd2 Rc1 18 23 Qh3+ 42 Kg2 Ke8 19 Qg2 Qxg2+ 43 Kh3 Kf7 20 Kxg2 Rxd5 44 Kh4 b5 21 Ba4?! Nd3 45 Bb2" Rc5 22 Bh3 Rd6

46 Bd4 Rc1

47 Bb2 1 2-1 2

### POKER DAVID SPANIER

23 Be3 b6

JACK THE PUMP was one of those characters who enliven the game. who become one of the fixtures of the room. His nickname came from his dodgy lungs, which caused him to carry an oxygen inhaler whenever he played. He was paper-thin, pink-faced, bright-eved, always smartly dressed, never short of a quip at his favourite game, which was low-stakes seven-card stud, 50p ante and £1 to open.

For 25 years he played every afternoon and evening at the Grosvenor Victoria, as willing to call a man down on a single pair as he was to pump the betting up if he had a drawing hand. Jack liked to claim he could not read or write, but he certainly understood the language of cards.

A friend who knew him well says he never failed to make between £17,000-£25,000 a year at sevencard stud - which takes some doing at low stakes. He was out of his depth at the bigger games, though he occasionally tried them. "All things being equal -" Jack would begin one of his little cracks between deals, "which of course they are not -". Or, "Wine, women and song - actually, I'll drop the song and take aces wired." He had an endless fund of silly jokes, which did not distract him from playing a good game.

Jack (real name John Barnes) started in the snooker halls, made some money and got into car-dealing. He acquired motor showrooms in south London, which he evidently managed successfully. He needed to because, to hear him tell it, he had shelled out a lot of money on his wives and women friends. At one stage he had a place in Las Vegas, where he went for the dry climate rather than the gambling, though he probably enjoyed plenty of that, too. Jack had that inestimable qual-

ity, which only a few poker players have, of not complaining about his losses, though he might become a bit pinker in the face, or exulting over his winnings. I had many a good-natured joust with Jack, and used to pretend I couldn't sleep at night after he beat me out of a pot. "Here you are: would you like it back now?" he would ask, "Or will you take a cheque?"

He used to talk about coming over to Paris to play poker there. The thought of the lights, the gaiety, above all the good games, tickled his fancy. But we both knew he would never make that trip. Jack the Pump's lungs finally gave out, but he leaves a happier memory among his fellow players than more many famous players ever could.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

### PICK OF THE DAY

AT HER PEAK, the actress Demi Lee David Zlotoff helms in recent times - The Juror, The Scarlet Letter and Striptease have failed to match the success of her earlier offerings such as Ghost, Disclosure and Indecent Proposal. Can she regain her position as one of the world's most powerful actresses? Find out as she is profiled in today's Femmes Fatales (1pm Sky Premier).

Moore was known as "Gimme" The Spitfire. Grill (8.30pm Moore. Those demands may Sky Premier), a superior weepie have subsided a little as her films showing on satellite for the first time tonight. Fresh out of jail, Percy (Alison Elliott) forms a bond with a moody restaurant owner (Ellen Burstyn, right). Without being a masterpiece, this film is a great and positive advertisement for the good oldfashioned virtues of solid writing and acting.

JAMES RAMPTON



(6494696), **1.00** Turning Points (4697376).

1.30 Wheel Nuts (3156747). 2.00 Close. 7.00 Count Duckula (32297). 7.30 The

Chris Evans Breakfast Show (35926). 8.30 Hollywood Squares (68574). 9.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (15191). 10.00 The Sairy Jessy hat represe (1998), 10,000 free Open Winter Show (17989), 11,00 Guiltyl (20452), 12,00 Jenny Jones (26029), 1,00 Mad about You (31569), 1,30 Jeopardy (33365), 2,00 Saily Jessy Raphael (95278). 3.00 Jenny Jones (51297). 4.00 Guityl (30704). 5.00 Star Trek - Deep Space Nine (5075). 6.00 Married with Children (9907). 6.30 Dream Team (6487). 7.00 The Simpsons (6704). 7.30 The Simpsons (2471). 8.00 Ameri-Ca's Dumbest Criminals (5452). 8-30
World's Weirdest TV (7487). 9-00 Friends (36988). 9-30 E R (97617). 10-30 Veronica's Closet (99487). 11-00 Dream Team (31433). 11.30 Star Trek - Deep Space Nine (87520). 12.30 The Comm 69). **1.30-7.00** Long Play (7853018).

SKY SPORTS 1 6.45 Sky Sports Centre (3139510). 7.00 World Wresting Federation Shot Gun (46636). 8.00 European Tour Golf (46630). 8-MB EUROPERI ROU GOI (33452). 10.00 Racing News (43839). 10.30 Ringside (4278). 12.00 Aerobics -Oz Style (78549). 12.30 Europeen Tour Golf (27433). 2.30 Unibelevable Sports (7538), 3.00 Pool (73487), 4.00 Watersports World (89094). 5.00 World Wrestling Federation Superstars (7075). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (1907). 6.30

bol Mundial (4471), 8.00 European Tour Golf (27742). 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (916777). 10.15 You're on Sky Sports (129520). 11.00 Trans World Sport 67907). 12.00 Sports Centre (7825582). 12.15 You're on Sky Sports (3765921) 1.00 Football League Review (37292) 2.00 Spanish Football (33940). 4.00 kend (86056). **4.30** Sky Sports Centre (51900747). 4.45 Close. SKY SPORTS 2

7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (1243079). 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (6841549), 7.45 Rac-ing News (3733655), 8.15 Unbelievable Sports (6592181), 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (9895617). 9.00 Watersports (7131617). 10.00 Futbol Mundial (2420520). 10.30 Golf: LPGA Office Depot (4018433). 12.30 World Pool League (5433907). 1.30 Futbol Mundial (3112891), 2.00 V-Max (6405839). 2.30 Ringside (2199075) 4.00 Sports Unimited (4)75346), 5.00 Football Review (6408926). 6.00 What a Decade (9454100). 6.30 Rugby Club 19.00 Golf USA (829098), 12.30 The Rugby Club (342321). 1.30 Tight Lines (4005969), 2.30 World Start 3.30-7.0 International Cricket (2273563). SKY SPORTS 3

stars (87287433). **1.00** Fish TV Fishing Texas (90078075). **1.30** Fish TV Americana Outdoors (87207297), 2.00 FA Cup Classics (40681907), 3.30 Unbelievable

Football League Review (81839), 7.30 Fut- Sports (87182655), 4.00 Premier Snooker League (87311988). 6.00 Survival of the Fittest (87188830) 6.30 Inside the PGA Tour (87162891). 7.00 Tight Lines (92373346), 8.00 Spanish Football (92386810). 10.00 Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (68893384), 11.30 Close. EUROSPORT

7.30 Alpine Skiing (79384). 8.30 Luge (65029). 9.00 Winter X Games (66839 10.00 Biathlon (51346). 11.00 Start Your Engines (64810). 12.00 Trial (55556). LOO Snowboarding (75926). 1.30 Tennis (3974742). 5.00 Winter X Games (5471). 6.00 Racing Line (99520), 7.00 And They Walked Away (86966), 8.00 Boxing (18094), 9.00 Footbell Review (11181), 11.00 Racing Line (52075), 12.00 Winter X Games (14056). 12.30 Close.

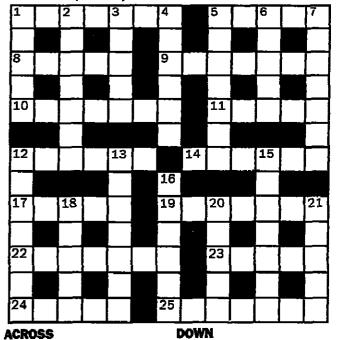
UK GOLD 7.00 Crossroads (9956346). 7.30 Neighbours (4186433). 7.55 EastEnders (5208471). **8.30** The Bill (8281384). **9.00** The Bill (8272636). **9.30** The House of Eliott (7068033), 10.30 Rhoda (8261520). 11.00 Datas (4244723), 11.55 Neighbours (78960346), 12,25 EastEnders (7857297), 1,00 Juliet Bravo (5082182). 2.00 Dallas (5065758), 2.55 The Bill (5404075), 3.25 The Bill (9897365), 3.55 EastEnders (3073925), 4.30 Rhoda (3784839), 5.00 All Creatures Great and Small (4813520), 6.00 Dynasty (5967538). 7.00 2point4 Children (3325100), 7.40 Dad's Army (7549742). 8.20 The Detectives (6034549), **9.00** Fawity Towers (8743839), **9.40** Fawity Towers (2919433) 10.20 Ivanhoe (29918433). 11.25 The Bit (7949549). 11.55 Bit (1561487). 12.25 The Black Adder (1007921), 1.05 Spender (3007704). 2.90 Colins Sandwich 16757211). **2.25** French and Saunder. (3631211). 3.00-7.00 Shopping (6821292). LIVING

6.00 Tiny and Crew (37063471), 6.20

Johnson and Friends (83970742), 6.30 Philbert the Frog (12131029), 6.40 Tiny Tales (84408384), 6.45 Greedysaurus and the Gang (84407655). 6.50 Polka Dot Shorts (84488520), 7.00 Practical Parenting (5147520). 7.05 Professor Bubble (8788704), 7.30 Caillou (1136384). 7.35 Bug Alert (7932617). 7.55 Practical Parenting (4478636). 8.00 Barney and Friends (4488013), 8.25 Babaloos (1993433), 8.30 Callou (8271549), 8.35 Tiny and Crew (5537655). 8.50 Practical Parenting (7877094). 9.00 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (5215297). 9.30 The eanne Show - Highlights (3562636). 10.00 The Jerry Springer Show (5828100). 10.50 Maury Povich (7482452) 11.40 Brookside (68505471). 12.10 Animai Rescue (22758723). 12.40 Rescue 911 (96918162). 1.10 Special Babies (76291669). 1.40 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (66619075), 2.10 LA Law (9714549). 3.10 Living Room (2890891). 4.00 Michael Cole (8818549), 4.50 Rolonda (1982461). 5.40 Ready, Steady, Cook (5402926). 6.15 The Jerry Springer Show (3149471), 7.05 Rescue 911 (2642487), 7.35 Arimal Rescue (2803162). 8.10 Maury Povich (4052075), 9.00 Film: Frequent Flyer (1996) (1257907). 11.00 Sex Zone (7110988). 12.00 Close.

9.00 National Velvet (1944) (56095687). 11.30 Hearts of the West (1975) (68892655). 1.30 The Last Run (1971) (21394679). 3455.00 Once a Thirf (1965) (42037940). PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL 7.00 Clueless (6345), 7.30 Grace under Fire (2013), 8.00 Ellen (5094), 8.30 News radio (7029). 9.00 Cybill (76520). 9.30 Vic Reeves' Big Night Out (14839). 10.00 Frasier (60520). 10.30 Cheers (86568). 11.00 Seinfeld (88365), 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show (30365), 12.00 Late Nigh with David Letterman (83747), 1,00 Taxi (60969). 1.30 The Critic (57360). 2.00 Dr Katz (60018). 2.30 Tibs and Fibs (72853). 3.00 Nightstand (40105), 3.30 Abbott & Costello (63105). 4.00 Close.

### CONCISE CROSSWORD No.3837 Thursday 4 February



Motors (7)

Greek poét (5) End wall of house (5) Government ministers (7) Ease (7) Larceny (5)

12 Plunder (6) Narrow stretch of water (6) 17 Attain (5) Bandit (7) Coal tar distillate (7)

23 Perspiration (5) 24 Cattle farm (5) 25 Stage set (7)

Swiss mountain (5) Turkey (7) Relative (5) Gullible person (6) Natural home (7) Chop finely (5) Sound of knocking (3-1-3) Scafarer (7) 13 Unharness (7) 15 World of scholars (7) 16 German submarines (1-5) 18 Type of poplar (5) 20 Question (5) 21 Song (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Force, 4 Aching (Forcaking), 9 Ballast, 10 Tally, 11 Each, 12 Coracle, 13 Ask, 14 Urge, 16 Cute, 18 Tee, 20 Sequoia, 21 Shoe, 24 Erica, 25 Luconic, 26 Theath, 27 Drain, DOWN: 1 Fabled, 2 Relic, 3 Exam. 5 Cut-price, 6 Illicit, 7 Geover, 8 Stick, 13 Aeronaut, 15 Require, 17 Aeron. 18 Table, 19 Beacon, 22 Herna, 24 Iced.

### REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

As BBC1 London except: 6.30 lewstine 630 (907), 12.05 Hearts and finds (6259037), 12.35 Film: Ambush in Waco (345308). 2.10 Joins BBC News

BBC1 SCOTLAND As BBC1 Lendon except: 12.30 Dotaman (38095742), 12.45 Dochaidh Mor (Oakey Doke) (26571839), 6.00 News (655), 6.30 Reporting Scotland (7), 11.05 Words with Wark (180891) BBC1 WALES

Wales Today (907), 9.30 Silent Witness (42384). 11.00 Damon Rochefort Tonight

(\$259), 11.10 Demon Hocketon 167, (2568), 11.30 Question Time (\$12297), 12.35 Indoor Bowis (\$041679), 1.20 Film: Ambush in Waco (\$17740), 2.55 Joins BBC News 24 (72493766). As Cariton except: 12.20 Anglia News and Weather (8787907). 1.00 Shortland Street (918810). 1.35 Home and Away (25055617). 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (5030278). 3.20 Angla (6243476), 12.40 The Jerry Springer Show (3051056), 1.25 T in the Park (6681582), 2.25 Box Office (1313327), 2.50 Cybernet (1675360), 3.20 Musder, She Wrote (3316834), 4.40 Potty about Pets (39784389), 4.35 Coach (27544786), 5.00 Nightscreen (72731). CENTRAL As Carlton except: 12.20 Central

As Cariton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (8787907). 1.90 Echo Point (77345). 3.20 Cantral News (5307823). 5.30 Shortland Street (9478907). 6.00 Home and Away (444162). 6.25 Central News and Weather (452181). 6.55 Lifetine (592568). 10.30 Central News and Weather (56433). 12.10 Public Morals (2604327). 4.10 Jobfinder (8451263). 5.20 Asian Eye (7696308). 5.20 Asian Eye (7696308).

As Cariton except: 10.30 This Morning (11719346), 12.15 HTV News (7383075), 1.00 Shortland Street (77346), 1.30 Home and Away (86433), 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (5030276), 3.20 HTV News and Weather (5301623), 5.10 A Country Practice (9478907), 6.00 Home and Away (444162), 6.25 Wales Tonight (398520), 7.30 Forgotten Treasures (87), 10.30

HTV News and Weather (596433). 12.10 We Can Work It Out (6243476). 12.40 The Jerry Springer Show (3051056). 1.25 T in the Park (8681582). 2.25 Box Offics America (1313327). 2.50 Cybernet (1875360). 3.20 Murder, She Wrote (1875362). 4.10 Petty shout Date (3316834). **4.10** Potty about Pets (39784389). **4.35** Coach (27544786). 5.00 ITV Nightscreen (72731).

HTV WEST
As HTV Wales except: 6.25 HTV
West Weather (75068); 6.30 The West
Tonight and Westher (425). 7.30 We Can
Work It Out (67), 12.40 Tales from the
Darkside (6243476). MERIDIAN

As Cariton except: 10.30 This Morning (11719346), 12.15 Meridian News and Weather (7388075), 1.00 News and Weather (7388075). 1.00 Shortland Street (9148810). 1.35 Home and Away (25055617). 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (5030278). 3.20 Meridian News and Weathar (5301623). 5.30 Home and Away (9478907). 5.37 Crimestoppers (186838). 6.00 Meridian Tonight (723). 6.30 Getaways (425). 10.30 Meridian News and Weather (596433). 12.30 Jenny (8343476). 12.40 The Jerry Springer Show (3051056). The Jerry Springer Show (3051056). 1,25 T in the Park (8681582). 2,25 Box

Office America (1313327). 2.50 Cybernet (1675360). 3.20 Murder, She Wrote (3316834). 4.30 Polty about Pela (39784389). 4.35 Coach (27544786). 5.00 Freescreen (72731).

WESTCOUNTRY
As Cariton except: 10.30 This
Morning (11719346), 12.15 Westcountry
News (7388075), 12.27 Burninations
(8795926), 1.00 Emmerdale (77346). (875356), 1.00 Emmercials (77546). 3.20 Westcountry News (5301623). 8.00 Westcountry Live (95181). 10.30 Westcountry News (596433). 12.10 Short Story Cinema (6243476). 12.40 The Jerry Springer Show (3051056). 1.25 T in the Park (8681582). 2.25 Box Office America (1313327). 2.50 Cybernet (1675360). 3.20 Murder, She Wrote (3316834). **4.10** Porty about Pers (39784389). **4.35** Coach (27544786). 5.00 ITV Nightscreen (72731).

YORKSHIRE As Cariton except: 12.20 Calendar As Carrion except: 12.20 Calendar News and Weather (8787907), 1.00 Home and Away (13035159), 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4235162), 2.10 Emmerdale (7844452), 3.20 Calendar News and Weather (5301623), 5.40 News; Weather (496384), 5.55 Calendar (947687), 6.30 Tonight (425), 10.30 Cal-

endar News and Weather (596433). 4.20 Jobfinder (2051227). TYNE TEES As Yorkshire except: 12,20 North

East News and Weather (8787907). 3.20 North East News Headlines (5301623). 5.55 North East Weather (199100) 6.00 North East Tonight (95191). 10.30 North East News and Weather (596433). As Channel 4 except: 9.00 Ysgo-lon/Schools (2006)520). 12.00 Be-

witched (29778094). 12.30 Sesame Street (38316181). 1.00 Planed Plant (34452487). 1.30 Film: Good Morning (34452487). 1.30 Film: Good Morning, Miss Dove (83095452). 4.30 Rich Lake (81229384). 5.00 Planed Plant: Uned 5 (64700075). 5.30 Countdown (81210536). 6.00 Nawyddon (54698758). 6.30 Heno (16498365). 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (64720839). 7.30 Newyddon (81220013). 8.00 Slaymaker (64802487). 8.30 Pam Fi Duw? (64718094). 9.00 i dot (38915097). 10.00 Father Ted (60410704). 10.35 Friends (56827742). 11.05 King of the Hill (67668926). 11.35 Faking it (8713500). 12.20 Whose Line is it Anyway? (19892747). 12.50 Rising Damp (26515230). 1.20 Dispatches (20435056). 1.50 Close.

# HURSDAY TEL EVISION

ROBERT

TELEVISION REVIEW HANKS

ision which is chaste to point of prissiness. On

**200** 

COMEDY IS PARAMOUNT

DISASTERS.

1.40 Joins BBC News 24 (17335760). To Sam

SCIENCE SHOW OF THE DAY

WAR.

**A LAUGH** 

HORIZON: PANDEMIC (8.30pm BBC2. nght) Documentary about the race to find out more about the so-called Spanish flu, which killed between 20 and 50 million people in the afternath of WWI. With another such pandemic expected soon, scientists want to discover what made this particular strain of influenza so deadly. Last summer, researchers dug into the permafrost of northern Norway and exhumed the bodies of seven men killed by the virus in 10.0. Ironically, the key to Spanish flu wasn't provided by this costly and high-profile venture, but by the

RECESSION.

**POLITICS.** 

Children's BBC: Playdays (R) (S) (8374742), 3.45 The All New Popeys Show (R) (T) (2268926), 3.55 Pocket Dragon Adventures (S) (T) (2257810), 4.05 Anthony Ant (S) (T) (6814452), 4.20 Home Farm Twins (S) (T) (6802817), 4.35 Short Change (S) (T) (8146807), 5.00 Newsround (S) (T) (2686075), 5.10 Grange Hill (S) (T) (8238617).

10

6.30 Regional News. Neighbours. Serah is conf (T) (595094).

7.00 Watchdog with Anne Roi news (S) (T) (4704).

7.30 KastEnders. Grant and Peggy (S) (T) (891).

8.00 Vets in Practice. Alson Back treats a jaunchood cat, and her husband, Craig, tackles a dog with a bladder problem (S) (T) (3452).

8.30 Fat Free. Dieling docu-scap. Sean's flancée is fed up with his charging moods, and gives him an ultimatum (S) (T) (5487).

9.00 News) Regional News) Weather

Ambush in Waco (Dick Lowry 1993 US). The American fascination with Waco seems a little odd on this side of the water. But this headline-chasing TV movie does quite a vivid job of recreating the events which led up to the FBI's confrontation with David Koresh (played here by Timothy Daly) and his Branch Davidien followers (Followed by Weather) (S) (T) (578056). 11.05 Question Time. Peter Lilley and The Express editor Rosie Boycott guest (S) (T) (180891).

12.00 Despatch Box (36230), 12.30 Open University: A University without Walls (92921), 1.00 Hard Rock Caré (42940), 1.30 Looking at What Happens in Hospital (96259), 2.00 Further Education: Hospitality and Catering (57582), 4.00 The French Experience I: 17-20 (48056), 5.00 Central Bureau: Teaching with Foreign Languages 1 (18495), 5.30 The Bridge: Leaving Primary School (3002650), To 545am.

BBC2

BBC1

7.05 I and Co (R) Taz-Mania (S)

00 Business Breakfast (43452), 7.00 News (T) (72891).

9.00 Kifroy (S) (T) (8245013), 9.45 The Vanessa Show (S) (T) (4651988), 10.85 News: Regional News: Weather (T) (676452), 11.00 Real Rooms (S) (6806029), 11.25 News: Regional News: Weather (T) (198075), 12.00 Cat My Regional News: Weather (T) (198075), 12.00 Cat My Bluf (S) (6786), 12.30 Wipeout (S) (456097), 12.35 The Weather Show (S) (T) (48459839, 1.00 News: Weather (T) (82278), 1.30 Regional News and Weather (A717907), 1.40 Neighbours (S) (T) (25050162), 2.05 fronside (R) (307723), 2.55 Body Spies (S) (5451013).

ronted by the stalker (S)

7.30 First Sight. Cataloguing the demiss of London's famous and much-loved Routemaster double-decker buses (433).

8,00 The Travel Show. Juliet Morris visits the Island of Djerba, of the coast of Tunisia, and Jim White and family take a 48-hour break in Cork (S) (T) (1094).

9.00 Meet the Ancestors. Julian Richards visits a couple near Sallsbury. They wanted to build a garage next to their bungalow – not knowing that their home was built over a fifth-century graveyard (8) (T) (8365).

10.20 Meetings with Rem **DIDIES** Norizon: Pandemic An investigation into the lethal pandemic of 1918, a mutation of the influenza virus which killed up to 50 million people worldwide. See Science Show of the Day, below (S) (T) (271182). **BS** (R) (360297)

11.75 Late Review. Natasha Walter and Diane Roberts join the usual suspects to review *Hideous Kinky* (S) (601033).

6.00 Star Trekt Deep Space Nine. A chance for those who have, in the past, tuned into this programme and found it too involved for casual viewing, to catch the very first series from 1986. It more or less explains everything (R) (S) (T) (83704).

8.30 Jeremy Clarkson's Extreme Machines. Jet boats and the world's greatest model Ferrart. Plus, in Arizona, Clarkson watches B-52s being destroyed at the US Air Force "graveyard" (F) (S) (T) (3028).

10.30 Newsnight. With Jeremy Paxman (T) (393758).

12:10 Tales om the Darkside (2604327).

12.45 The Jer Pirate TV

4.25 IIII Face of a Stranger (Claudia Welli 1991 US). Newly bankrupted widow Gena Rowlands strikes up a friendship with beg lady Tyne Daly in this above-average TV movie (S) (T) (22619556).

8.00 The Bill. Sun Hill Bi (T) (8869).

9.00 The Kr bitten by valuable heroin in try to inf yashmak

Weather (T) (60907).

10.30 Londo **n Tonight** (T) (596433).

10.40 Thursday N and Penny Sir (S) (4081704). lay Night Live. Nicky Campbell, Kaye Adams

3.25 Children's ITV: Mopatop's Shop (205856). 3.35 The Adventures of Dawdie (S) (3322297). 3.45 The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (S) (T) (3302433). 4.00 Lavender Castle (S) (T) (8817549). 4.15 Hey Arnold (R) (T) (3570891). 4.40 Children's Ward (S) (T) (2460810).

5.40 Nex 5.10 Hom e and Away (S) (T) (9478907).

6.00 Lond capits bulleti don Tonight. Regional news update for the el and the South-East, including a local weather in (7) (723).

7.00 Ernmerdale. Zoe drowns her sorrows and lands Chris in deep trouble (S) (T) (2100).

7:30 We Can Work It Out. ITV's enswer to Watchdog with Judy Finnigen in the Anne Robinson role (S) (87).

**11.05 Ally McBeal** (286029). **12.05** 4 Later: Oz (2300637). **1.05** 4 Later: Vids (8815016). **1.40** Morris (8881501).

s; Weather (T) (119723).

6.30 Vide etech. Margherita Taylor with the latest charts and "gossip" from the music biz (S) (425).

7.50 Music of the Millennium. Motown diva Ronnie Spector reveals her favourite singer (602704).

10.00 Rising Damp. Algeby decides to confees his passion for Miss Jones when he hears that she has a new man in her life (H) (T) (887/887). 9.30 GIOIGH bispatches. Meeting the republican hardliners who are threatening to disrupt the peace process. See *Investigation of the Day*, below (T) (40128).

10.35 Whose Line is it Anyway? Another of the shows recorded in front of an American audience (S) (T) (524075).

1.55 (1)(1)(1) The Anniversary (Roy Ward Baker 1968 UK), Bette Davis and Hammer films together at last. See Film of the Day, below (946698).

3.40 EIIM The Devil-Ship Pirates (Don Sharp 1984 UK). Hammer again, with an unusual costume saga. Christopher Lee stars as a defeated Spanish Armada captain terrorishing the Comish coast (78/2037). To 5.10am.

Carlton

9.25 Trisha (S) (T) (5612839). 10.30 This Morning (T) (56337704). 12.20 Your Shout (8787907). 12.30 News; Weather (T) (87162). 1.00 London Today (T) (77348). 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (S) (T) (1881588). 2.15 Home and Awey (S) (T) (974181). 2.45 Dale's Supermarket Sweep (S) (T) (973452).

3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (2151100), 3.20 London Today (T) (5301623).

9.00 Channel 4 Schools: History in Action (4096181).
9.20 Geographical Eye over Britain (4083617). 9.40
The English Programme (9476094). 10.00 Middle
English (1458452). 10.20 Fourways Farm (8638839).
10.30 Scientific Eye (7131926). 10.50 What the Papers
Said (3864094). 11.00 The Number Crew (8605723).
11.10 Channel Hopping auf Deutsch (3163669).

(A) (S) (T) (6274487), 7.30 Mikshakel (S) (9812781), 7.35 Wimzle's House (F) (3356013), 8.00 Havekazoo (F) (S) (4202487), 8.30 Dappledown Farm (R) (S) (4201758), 9.00 Animal House (R) (S) (T) (1821094), 9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (7556365), 9.30 The Oprah Wintrey Show (5209549), 10.20 Sunsel Beach (S) (T) (1209742), 11.10 Leaza (S) (4818365), 12.00 5 News at Noon (S) (T) (4109348), 12.30 Family Affairs (S) (T) (9144520), 1.00 The Bold and the Beaultful (S) (T) (8273758), 1.30 The Roseanne Show (S) (9143891), 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (5398520), 2.30 Good Afternoon (S) (1942100).

7.00 The Big Breakfast (S) (78029)

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THE THURSDAY REVIEW
The independent 4 February 1999

11.30 Powerhouse (T) (4926). 12.00 Sesame Street (T) (50520). 12.30 Bewitched (R) (S) (T) (85704). 1.00 Pet Rescue (S) (T) (7588). 1.30 Earthscape (47184617). 1.40 Collectors' Lot (90791075).

3.30 Hampton Court Palace (T) (181). 4.00 Fifteen to One (S) (T) (988). 4.30 Countdown (S) (T) (8130348). 4.58 Fickl Lake (3794549). 5.30 Pet Rescue (S) (452). 1.50 **TAILLY Mr Denning Drives North** (Anthony Kimmins 1953 UK). Mildly enjoyable comedy thriller about a successful aircraft manufacturer (John Mille) who accidentally kills the comman who is blackmailing his daughter. With Phyllis Calvert (46755636).

Dishes. Kate Thornton and Danny Brown Introduce the game show which uneasily mixes cookery and romance (T) (365).

6.30 Hollyoaks. Chester teenagers. Why have Mandy's driving lessons been cancelled? (8) (T) (617).

6.30 Family Affairs. Roy and Pete come (T) (8547617).

**6.00 100 Per Cent.** The game show without a host (S) (6566366).

**5.20 Sunset Beach.** Maria suddenly remo (S) (T) (5692623).

3.30 AIM The Deflant Ones (David Lowell Rich 1986 US). Underpowered remake of Stanley Kramer's 1958 morality tale about a racist white convict who escapes from a road gang while chained to a black inmale. Robert Urioh and Carl Weathers take the roles played by Tony Curtis and Sichey Politer in the original (9836182).

7.00 Channel 4 News Weather. Including headlines at 7.30pm (5) (T) (391164).

7.00 5 News (S) (T) (5300636)

8.00 Noriand Nannies. Traines-nanny docu-soap.
The novices staff a creche at the Badminton horse trials
(T) (6162).

8.00 The Pepal Chart (5319384).

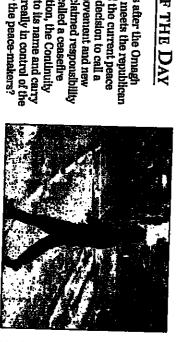
7.30 Wild Water. Wildlife documentary about the elephant seals which gather to breed on the beaches of the Island of Kerguelen (S) (T) (6649029).

8.30 Margot Fonteyn - Prime Bellerina Assolute.
Repeat Secret Lives profile of the ballerina, who, among other things, apparently funded a left-wing revolution at the height of the Cold War and put obedience above all other virtues (R) (S) (T) (32891).

9.00 IIIII The Fulfillment of Mary Gray (Pie Haggard 1989 US). She is about the only person be fulfilled by this costume drams. Cheryl Ladd p 8.30 Family Confidential, Meet a mother-of-two who lef her poet office job to become a strippergram in Birkenhead (S) (5598891).

12.00 Live and Dangerous (5) (4194747), 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (1606888), 5.30 100 Per Cent (R) (5) (9191476), To 8am. 11.20 The Jack Docherty Show. Simon B Cotter, and Nik Kershaw guest (S) (7189888).

TELEVISION GUIDE BY GEKARI) GILBERT



bispatches (830pm C4) Six months after bombing (right), reporter Joe Layburn mee hardliners who are threatening to send the process off course. Following the IRA's deci ceasefire, splits have occurred in the moves groupings have formed. The Real IRA claim for the Omegh atrocity, but have since calle themselves. However another organisation.

INVESTIGATION OF

FILM OF THE DAY

THE ANNIVERSARY (1.55am C4, night) Bette Davis's career, definitely on the wane during the 1950s, was revived for a while by Robert Aldrich's 1982 film What Ever Happened to Baby Jane? The downside of this was that Davis became typecast in a whole series of modish Grand Guignol horror movies from Hush... Hush, Sweet Charlotte (Aldrich again) to this 1967 Hammer tale directed by Roy Ward Baker (Davis had the original director, Alvin Rakoff, fired a week into production). She plays the one-eyed natriarch who camply

